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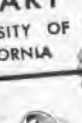

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THE

MODERN FISHER:

OR,

DRIFFIELD ANGLER:

CONTAINING,

Descriptions of the different kinds of

FRESH WATER FISH,

And the best methods of taking them in rivers, lakes, and fish-ponds; with full

DIRECTIONS FOR BAITS,

And the manner of making ARTIFICAL FLIES for every month in the season.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SHOOTING AND COURSING:

With rules for the breeding, breaking, and management of

Pointers, Spaniels, and Greyhounds.

BY ALEXANDER MACKINTOSH.

DERBY:

PRINTED BY AND FOR HENRY MOZLEY;—SOLD ALSO IN LONDON BY G. COWIE AND CO., POULTRY.

1821.

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TO

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ATHOL,

&c. &c. &c. &c.

My Lord Duke,

With the utmost humility I presume to dedicate to your Grace the following sheets.

Your Grace's well known liberality, and the protection you afford to the fair sportsman, will plead in my behalf for the liberty I have taken.

That you may long continue to enjoy those amusements, which you so happily blend with pursuits far more important, for the good of your country, and the benefit of mankind, is the sincere wish of,

My Lord Duke,

your Grace's most

devoted and most

obedient servant,

ALEXANDER MACKINTOSH.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

ALTHOUGH I have given this work the title of the Driffield Angler, the rules it contains will equally apply to other northern rivers; and I apprehend, with little variation, to every part of Great-Britain; but as my own practice has been confined to the North, and particularly to Driffield, where I have resided thirty years, I imagined it could not be rendered less acceptable to the reader for being compiled near the banks of one of the finest trout streams in the kingdom: I do not deny that I have sometimes quoted from other writers in the descriptive parts of this work; but the instructions, and particularly those for making artificial flies, are my own; and will I hope and trust, be found of considerable use.

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ODE TO HEALTH.

O THOU! the sportsman's guide and friend,
Hygeia, to our plains descend;
Inspire the theme, attune the voice,
'Midst nature's blessings to rejoice:
Without thee pleasure turns to pain,
And the lark's matin song is vain.
Soon as the frozen earth unbinds
Her loosened glebe, when southern winds
On rippling streams begin to play,
Conduct us forth at early day;
Whilst on fair Flora's front are set,
The primrose and the violet:
Each morn together let us trace
To unlock'd springs the Naiad race;
Seek their rich urns the task apply,
Our fruitful rivers to supply;
Thence roving the gay banks along,
(Whilst musing on the silver song)
View the bright salmon swiftly glide,
The trout in all his speckled pride,
The red finn'd perch of num'rous breed,
And the bold tyrant pike succeed;
Still mindful with our line and hook,
To tempt the monarch of the brook,

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Thee, goddess, every month reveres,
As Phœbus down the zodiac steers,
But chiefly May, if blithe she comes
Beneath thy smiles, and spreads her blooms,
O'er hill and dale, and grove and field,
Which then their richest verdure yield;
Whilst odoriferous sweets dispense
Their choicest fragrance to the sense:
But O! conduct her by the hand,
Nor ling'ring let the virgin stand;
Haste, haste, and bid her quick display
Her bosom to the genial ray;
The zephyr's balmy breath inhale,
And loose her tresses to the gale:
Then borne on joy's ecstatic wings
The mounting lark thro' ether sings;
Then stream and forest, plain and grove,
Rejoicing in the month of love,
Shall nature's gifts profusely bear,
The promise of the ripening year.
Thus bland and cheerful, led by you,
Let us our varied toils pursue:
Protect us summer's heats along,
And ere rich autumn claims the song,
(Waving on high his crops of gold)
The furze-clad heath to us unfold,
The moorland and the mountain's side,
Where numerous packs of grouse abide.
Soon as the harvest rites are paid,
And safely stor'd its grain convey'd,

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Our true bred pointers to the mead,
Or thick set stubble must succeed;
Where (many coveys brooding round)
Eager they snuff the tainted ground;
And catch the gales that may convey
Unto their scent the destin'd prey.
With spaniels let us next repair,
And make the woodland haunts our care,
Whilst pheasants mount on whirring wings,
And from his copse the woodcock springs.
Now the wide forest's lengthened shade,
Blithe goddess, let our steps pervade,
And thence the Grampian hills survey,
Renown'd in many an ancient lay;
Whilst feudal chiefs for empire sought,
And for the deers' dominion fought;
When seldom fail'd the bugle horn
To rouse with valorous deeds the morn:
In happier days where peace resorts
And Athol courts thee to his sports.
Then to the uplands guide us on.
Or outstretched wolds where glory won,
In many a noble course his speed
Snow-Ball* resigns unto his breed;
Hung round with trophies of his praise,
The prizes of his youthful days;

* One of the best and fleetest grey hounds that ever run, belonging to Edward Topham, Esquire, of the Wold-cottage, in the East Riding of Yorkshire, and his breed all most excellent.

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His palms secure now yields the plain,
But dreams his conquests o'er again;
And still in sleep (beyond compare)
Outstrips the field and turns the hare.
Thus joys on joys pursue their lead
Till winter comes, whose hoary head,
And beard whence icicles depend,
At once bid rural pleasures end:
The honest sportsman will forego
To track the hare thro' depths of snow;
Or cause the feather'd race to bleed,
Tho' at his very barns they feed;
But lifting up his grateful voice
To him who bids all hearts rejoice,
Thanks heaven that thro' the circling year
Thy treasures give his heart to cheer;
To sooth him 'midst the winter's gloom,
And bid the spring his sports resume.

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THE

DRIFFIELD ANGLER.

PART I.

OF FISH.

CHAPTER I.

THE SALMON.

THE Salmon is justly styled the king of fresh water fish, and has different names according to its different ages; those that are taken in the rivers Tay and Spay in Scotland, and the Mersey in Cheshire, the first year are called Smelts; which Smelts, or Fry, leave these rivers towards the end of May, and are then about three ounces each, and return in August and September, when they are three or four pounds weight. In the second year they are called Sprods, in the third Morts, in the fourth Fork-Tails, in the fifth half Fish, and in the sixth year, when they have attained their growth, are thought worthy of the name of Salmon: their greatest magnitude is much the same in all parts of Eu-

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rope, the largest weighing from thirty to sixty pounds. I caught one when angling with the fly at Castle-Menzies in the year 1765, that weighed fifty-four pounds and a half.

The Salmon is a beautiful fish, and has so many excellent qualities that it is every where in the highest esteem: it has a longish body covered with small thin scales, a small head, a sharp snout, and a forked tail, the colour on the back is bluish, on other parts white generally intermixed with blackish or reddish spots in a very agreeable manner: the male is distinguished from the female by a longer and hooked nose, his scales are not so bright, and his body is speckled over with dark brown spots; his belly is flatter, his flesh more dry and not so red; the excrescence which grows out of his lower jaw, is a bony or gristly substance like a hawk's beak, and is a defence provided by nature against such enemies as would devour the spawn, (which most fish search after with eagerness) it grows to the length of about two inches, and falls off when he returns to the sea. The teeth of this fish are but small in proportion to the body; its gills are quadruple, with a broad cover full of red spots, the same as the sides, and dusky towards the back; the flesh is red if in season, and is sweet, tender, flaky, and luscious, and of excellent flavour. Those who pretend to the best judgment insist, that the Salmon cannot be too soon brought on the table after it is caught,

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and whilst the flakes are curdled with fat; whilst others contend it ought to be kept a few days before it is dressed. About the time of spawning its taste is more insipid, and it loses its lively colour, insomuch that, when quite out of season, the fish appears almost of a different species, and are then called Kippers. The Scaggers, or young Fry, called in some countries Salmon-Smelts, leave those rivers as before mentioned, and all other rivers, in May and June.

Salmon choose the rivers for their abode about seven months in the year; they generally begin to enter the fresh water in January, and sometimes even in December, and abound in February and March; where they continue till the autumnal season, at which time they cast their spawn, and soon after return to the sea. But directly the contrary is reported of the river Ex in Devonshire, and the Wye and Uske in Monmouthshire, where it is said they are in season during the other six months; and what is more remarkable, (if true) they never frequent the Wye and Uske in the same year; for when the fish are found in one of those rivers they are wanted in the other, which is probably the case in other parts of the kingdom; however this may be, it is certain that the salt water wonderfully promotes their growth, and the fresh chiefly contributes to make them fat.

At spawning time the female seeks a proper place in a gravelly bottom, where she is observ-

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ed to work with her whole body till she has formed a bed of the same dimensions of herself, into which she discharges her spawn and retires; then the male, or milter, advances and covers the spawn with his belly, emitting at the same time a whitish fluid like milk: this is no sooner done but the female returns to the male, when they use their joint endeavours to cover their brood with the gravel, in which they work with their noses.—They then return to the deeps to recover their strength, which they do in about a month. At this time the fish are of small value, but to prevent their being destroyed, the law inflicts a penalty on those that kill Salmon between the 11th of August and the 23d of November.

There is nothing relating to this fish which has been more talked of, than its agility in leaping over any obstacle which opposes its passage either to or from the sea. They are frequently seen to throw themselves up cataracts and precipices from ten to fifteen feet high; making at times several essays before thay can gain their point, and when they have so done, it is often to their own destruction, by leaping into baskets and nets placed on purpose to catch them.

There is a remarkable cataract in the river Gaerey, in the pass of Gillicrankey, in Athol, Perthshire, and one much of the same kind on the river Tumble, within five miles of the former: there is another at Old Aberdeen in Scotland, and

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another at Keith, near Blair-Drummond, where such quantities of Salmon have been caught that they constitute the chief traffic of the place. I have heard of a cataract on the river Tivy, in Pembrokeshire, so high, that people stand wondering at the strength and sleight used by the fish to get out of the sea into the river. On the river Wear near Durham is another, but not so high as any of the former. When their passage to the sea is is intercepted by weirs, or any other contrivance, they soon grow sickly, lean and languid, and in the second year pine away and die.

It is worth observation, that the Salmon is not only desirous of returning back to the rivers, but that very river where it was spawned; as is evident from experiments made by fishermen on the river Tay, who have caught them when very small, and have run a small brass wire through the tail fin, by which mark they have been certain that they have taken the same fish at the same place as they returned from the sea; by this means they have likewise discovered that the Salmon is of very quick growth, and much more so than any other fish.

The chief rivers in England that yield this excellent fish, are the Thames, Severn, Mersey, Trent, Medway, Dee, Ex, Uske, Wye, Don, Tyne, Workington, and Tweed; however the London markets are supplied soonest from the North, where they are not only more plentiful,

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but earlier in season than those in the southern rivers.

Thus having given a general account of the nature of this noble fish, I shall now proceed to the method of taking him with the angle, and referring the reader for the description of his rod and the manner of making artificial flies; (see instructions and observations under that head) I shall only remark in this place, that every part of his apparatus must be proportionably larger than for Trout; the rod at least eighteen feet long, with a reel or winch capable of containing from one hundred to one hundred and fifty yards of line; for a large fish, when first struck, will sometimes run out an immense length with incredible swiftness, and however you may depend on the goodness of your tackle, if you be not also prepared with your heels to follow and keep him in proper play, he will very often break your line.

And here let me remark that the Salmon does not lie long in a place, but seems desirous of getting still nearer the head of the spring; he does not lie near the bank side, nor under the roots of trees, but swims in the deep and broad parts of the water, generally in the middle, and near the ground. But the Salmon-Smelts commonly lie in shallow and rapid parts of the stream, and always near the middle.

The most alluring bait for the Salmon in almost all the rivers in Scotland, is four or five raw

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Cockles, or Muscles, fresh taken out of the shell; with this they fish at bottom, using a small running bullet, when the tide flows into the fresh water: this method is practised with success—let the Cockle fall into a shallow from which there is a gradual descent into a deep hole, you will generally be sure of sport: other usual baits are lobworms, small Dace, Gudgeons, Minnows, or two well scoured dew-worms; which should be often varied, in order to suit the humour of this fickle fish, for what he likes one day he will despise the next, which it must be owned is a very mortifying circumstance to an angler. But what often exercises his patience is to see the fish sporting on the surface of the water and not be able to tempt him with any of his baits: however he generally bites best from six o'clock in the morning till nine, and from three to eight in the evening through the months of May, June, July, and August, especially if the water happens to be clear, and is stirred by a good breeze of wind; and there will be still greater likelihood of success if the wind and stream set contrary ways.

I shall here notice one particular fly which they are remarkably fond of, called the horse-leech fly, which although a native of the latter months they will take the resemblance of it early in the spring; they are of various colours, have great heads, large bodies, very long tails, and two pair of wings placed behind each other: in preparing the

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artificial ones, however, you may vary the colours: whip the body about with gold or silver twist, and do the same by the head, remembering the hook must be very strong and large; with this fly, fish at length as for Trout, &c. See a more minute description of this fly in the twelfth chapter.

But although this method of angling be far more agreeable than any other, yet as the fish are not often in the humour to rise at a fly, I would advise you to be always provided with some well scoured lob-worms, as I have found this bait very successful in fishing at the bottom: for this purpose let your hook be large, and tied upon small gimp, or three strands of silk-worm gut twisted together; for though a Salmon when struck, seldom or never attempts to bite the line, yet as you will be obliged to play with him some time, it must rake against his teeth, for without this precaution you will be in great danger of losing your prize.

Whenever you see a Salmon leap out of the water, you may conclude there is a deep hole, or large stones, not far off; and if the river be too broad for you to throw a fly, or the wind hinders you, then lay your ledger-bait as near the hole as you can, as he always chooses such places for his retirement; if you bait with a Minnow, Dace, Gudgeon, &c. and cannot reach with trolling, put on your baits alive, by hanging the hook through

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the upper jaw, or back fin, and with a large cork-float, let them swim down about mid-water into the deep.

For the Salmon-fry, or Scagger, the properest baits are ant-flies, brandlings, red worms, gentles, black and dew gnats, all-coloured small hackles, and dubbed flies, according to the season: when they rise at the fly, and a little before they leave the river, they usually get into large shoals, where you will see twenty or thirty rise at a time: if you meet with a shoal, you may use three hooks on one line, tied to single hairs, or very fine gut, and as they rise very freely, you will be sure of excellent diversion.

The chief Salmon-fisheries are along the coasts of England, Scotland, and Ireland.—The fishing begins about the first of January, and ends the eleventh of August; it is performed with nets, in places where the rivers empty themselves into the sea, and along the sea-coasts thereabout, because these fish are seen to crowd thither from all parts in search of fresh water: they also fish for them higher up in the rivers, sometimes with nets, and sometimes with locks, or weirs, made for that purpose with gates, which are so contrived, that the fish in passing up the river can open them with their heads, but they are no sooner entered than the gate claps to and prevents their return; thus the Salmon are inclosed as in a reservoir, from whence it is easy to take them with a click-hook.

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In some rivers in Scotland they fish for Salmon in the night-time, by the light of torches or kindled straw, which the fish mistaking for day-light, make towards it and are struck with the spear, or click-hook: it is also very common to dart Salmon as they are endeavouring to get over the weirs.

When the fish are caught, they open them, take out the guts and gills, and salt them in large tubs made for that purpose; out of which they are taken before October, when they are packed up in cases from four hundred and fifty to five hundred pounds weight, and sent to the London market.

Salmon spawn is a very good bait for Trout. The common way of using it is to take the spawn and boil it so hard as to stick on the hook, though many people use it without boiling; others put a great quantity of salt to their spawn, and hang it in a linen bag, in the kitchen, far from the fire, and they steep it the night before it is used, in rum, brandy, or geneva, which will give it a lovely colour; it is the best ground bait I know for Trout, Chub, &c. early in the spring, especially if used near those places where Salmon are accustomed to spawn, for thither the fish will come in expectation of it.

Another method of preparing, and preserving the roe (and the best of any) is, after boiling it, to take a glazed earthen pot, and sprinkling a little salt over the roe, put a layer of very fine wool at

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the bottom of the pot, as thin as possible, and then a layer of the roe, and so on till the pot is filled: it is an excellent bait, and by these means will be preserved both for winter and spring fishing. The night before you use it, steep it in rum, brandy, &c.

Would fortune give, to close my earthly race
By Tay's or Tumble's banks, a dwelling-place,
Where I might stray beside the river's brink,
And throw my line for Salmon, Trout, or Pink;
Such luxury I prize, such blest estate,
Nor count the real, or the seeming great.
There let me range, where tow'ring to the skies,
High mountains o'er the plains are seen to rise;
The rivers clearing each opposing mound
That bars their passage, thro' the level ground,
To reach the distant main, whereon to look
Affords this lesson drawn from Reason's book:
" As constant flowing streams thy waves supply,
" So rolls all nature thro' eternity;
" From thee they draw their source, thy tempests rise,
" And fill the lofty sluices of the skies;
" Whence powerful rains, or gentle dews descend,
" Which still towards their native centre tend."
Thus would I pass in peaceful sport my days,
Attentive to my great Creator's praise;
That life he gave, with cheerfulness resign,
And hope at length in heavenly bliss to join.

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CHAPTER II.

THE TROUT.

THE Trout may be deemed the monarch of the becks, or rivulets, and small brooks, as the Salmon is of the larger rivers. This fish is of a longish make, and resembles a Salmon more than any other of its species: the head is short and roundish, the nose blunt, the body thick, and the tail broad; the mouth is wide, and it has teeth not only in the jaws, but in the palate and tongue.

Trout generally take delight in the cooler and smaller rivers, which descend from hills, and rocky mountains, and they seem to take a pleasure in striving against the stream; it is really wonderful to see with what force and agility they will surmount all difficulties in travelling towards the source of rivers, let the ascent be ever so rapid: and several authors tell us, that they are found among the Alps, in waters so very cold, that no other fish can live therein.

Their time of spawning is in the latter end of October, November, and part of December, when they dig holes in gravelly or stony places, in the same manner as the Salmon, and deposit their spawn therein; but they are not in season when full of spawn, for they are fattest, and have the

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most delicious taste in June, July, and August; however, they begin to be in season in April, and are sooner so in some rivers than others; the reason is hard to guess, for there are variety of small fish in every river frequented by the Trout. In the winter-time they are sickly, lean, and unwholesome, breeding a kind of worm, with a large head, which is not unlike a clove in shape; they then appear to have heads of a larger size than ordinary, their beautiful spots disappear, and the lively colour of the belly becomes of a dusky and disagreeable hue; but towards the latter end of March, when the sun, with genial warmth, begins to invigorate the earth, they then make a show of some spirit; and, rousing as it were from a sort of lethargy, forsake the deep still waters for the more rapid streams, where they rub off their foes against the gravelly bottom, and soon after recover their former strength and vigour. The flesh is a little drier, and not so luscious as that of a Salmon; however it is esteemed the most agreeable of all fish that make their constant abode in fresh water.

There are several kinds of Trout, but the most valuable are those of a red or yellow colour; and of these, the female is preferable, she is known by a lesser head, and a deeper body than that of the male.

This fish, as before observed, delights in the swiftest streams; in spring at the tail, in May

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they keep the upper end, and through the summer they love to frequent shallows, or the aprons, or tails of mills; they are particularly fond of a hole covered with boughs, and where the roots shoot down to the water's edge, if they can find a good hold; in such places you may find the largest Trout. When they watch for their prey, they generally shelter themselves under a bank, or a large stone, or in weeds, where they are often seen lurking, entirely covered except their heads; when they are discovered in this situation, go a little up the stream, and with great care and caution muddy the water, putting in your bait immediately to the troubled place, then keeping yourself as far from the bank as you can, to be out of sight, follow your float and expect success; but I think it much better to angle without a float.

The usual baits for Trout, are minnows, flies, (either natural or artificial) worms, grubs, gentles, cadises, &c. The proper worms, are the brandling, lob-worm, dung-worm, &c. but especially the two first; yet, indeed, for bottom-fishing, the lob-worm is preferable, and more generally used. Salmon-spawn is also an excellent bait in the spring, as I noticed before.

There are two methods of fishing with the minnow for Trout, one of which is called the spinning-minnow; the simplest way of putting this on, is with a large plain hook, No. 6, (Salmon-hook) pretty long in the shank; draw your hook

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first through the mouth of the minnow and out at the gill, then turning it again through the mouth, bring the point of the hook all the way down the side, rather nearest the belly, and quite to the fork, drawing out the point at the tail, and and leaving it somewhat on a curve, which will make it spin the better; for this purpose use the strongest gut you can procure, of which you should have, at least, a yard above your hook; two swivels will also assist the minnow in spinning, though one may do; and I would recommend about an inch and a half of strong silk, whipped at the bottom of the gut, to fasten your hook on, which will make it turn round much easier in the minnow's mouth, the strong gut being too stiff for that purpose: you must have a shot or two, of a large size, on your gut line, to prevent the bait from drawing too high, but this will only answer in sharp streams, or a ruffling wind.

The other may be properly called fishing with the trolling minnow, and is by far the most killing way, at least I have found it so in all the rivers and streams within my knowledge, though I am told the spinning-minnow is chiefly used in the south of England. I shall now describe the trolling method.

Take three hooks, (No. 5 or 6) and a good, round, and even silk-worm gut, with half a yard of small silk, well waxed, wrap one of the hooks

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neatly, the same as for a worm, then lay the other two hooks back to back, and place the hook you have wrapped with its back to the others; wrap all three together, tight and neatly up to the top, making two or three nooses, covering the top of the hooks with your silk and wax, make a loop on the length of gut, without a knot, wrapping it neatly and as fast as you can: you must also have a small lead made in the shape of an egg, with a hole through it, it must be no larger than the minnow's mouth will contain; when you bait, take a middle-sized minnow, put the loop of the gut through the eye of a large darning needle, then put the needle in at the vent, and as even as you can out of the mouth of the minnow; afterwards run your lead down the link of gut, putting it neatly into the minnow's mouth; thread your needle again, put it through the under and upper lip, and draw the gut up tight, the lead will be sewed up, and not to be seen; have a large loop at the end of your swivel-line, which should be two yards long, that will admit of the minnow going through every time you bait; or you may have a fine spring swivel to hang it on, the same as for Pike, which will be the least trouble. When you fish this way, throw the minnow across the stream, or rather upward, let it sink to mid-water, or a little more, before you begin to draw it across; do not draw too quick till it comes near the side, then turn the rod

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against the stream and draw smartly, by which means the bait will spin like lightning, and cannot be discovered from a live minnow.

When you fish with worms, let your hook be large, (No. 3 or 4) with about a yard of gut below your reel line, and put two worms on in the following manner; the first on the hook with the head foremost, and then slipping it a little up the line to make room, put the other on with the tail foremost, after, which, draw the first down to it so close that they may seem to be knotting, or engendering, for they often perform this naturally on the banks of rivers, and sometimes fall into the water, where they become a prey to hungry fish: the tails of mill-pools, and deep holes, are the best for this kind of diversion, and after rain, when the water is discoloured, you may fish all down the sides of the banks, taking care to keep your worms a little off the ground that they may glide down the easier, and by this method you will catch fish when they are not to be obtained by any other means: put two or three shot upon your line to make it sink properly; and in places where you suspect there may lie any large Pike, I would advise you to use a large hook tied upon small white gimp, that he cannot bite off, and which he would infallibly do with the gut. The lob-worm is also an excellent bait early in the morning, at twilight, in the dusk of the evening, or even in the night when it is dark; in this case,

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you must have no lead on your line, but throw your bait as gently as you can across the stream, and draw it softly to you on the top of the water; this is the best method to catch the oldest and largest Trouts, for they are very fearful and shy in the day-time, but in the night they are bold and undaunted, and generally lie near the top of the water in expectation of meeting with food; for if they see any thing in motion, let it be what it will, they certainly follow if it moves gently along. But this kind of sport is only to be had in very warm nights, and chiefly in deep smooth waters. Remember always to put two large lob-worms on your hook, in the manner before described.

At water-clearing, (as mentioned before) after a flood, or in dark, cloudy, and gloomy weather, when it is windy, are the most favourable times for worm fishing, in the months of March and April, and the latter end of August, September, and October; but in hot months, the warmest sun-shine, and the middle of the day, is the best.

N. B. Fly-fishing I shall treat of more at large in a future chapter.

I have angled in many parts of Scotland, and the north of England, but of all the places on this side of Great-Britain, most delightful for this charming recreation, I must prefer the river at at Driffield. It is fed by several small rivulets, or becks, rising at Kirkburn, Emswell, and Little-

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Driffield, which falling into one large stream just below the town of Great-Driffield, is called the west beck; and about three miles below, at Wansford, it is joined by a small stream from Nafferton; and two miles lower still, at Emmorland-Stakes, by that of Lowthorpe, from which place it takes the name of the river Hull.

The lords of the different manors are, on the north-east side, Richard Langley, Esquire, Wykeham-Abbey, and Sir Mark Sykes, Baronet, Sledmere; on the south-west side, Richard Arkwright, Esquire, Cromford, Derbyshire, and Sir Charles Hotham, Baronet, South Dalton; to whom it is necessary to make application for the liberty of angling, which for gentlemen, and fair sportsmen, will not be very difficult to obtain; and indeed nothing can more contribute to prevent the depredations of poachers, than a number of persons, in the fishing season, moving about in various directions near every part of the stream, by some of whom they must be detected in their hides and lurking-places. All the rivers or becks abound with Trout of the finest flavour, and largest size; and it is reckoned unfair to kill a fish under the weight of a pound, many being caught from two to six pounds, and sometimes even of nine or ten pounds weight. The streams roll through the finest meadows, and there are no trees or bushes to intercept the sportsman's diversion; but the country round, particularly near

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Driffield, is beautifully diversified with picturesque views of hills, dales, and woodlands, and all the walks about the town are remarkably pleasant; besides there is a navigation-cut, beginning at Driffield, which is also well filled with Trout; and a mile or two below Wansford, with numbers of large Pike and Perch, affording in their turns much amusement: there are also great numbers of Eels, Roach, Gudgeons, &c. and in all the streams innumerable shoals of minnows that feed and fatten the Trout. Great-Driffield is besides admirably situated for hunting, hawking, coursing, and other field sports, from the very extensive wolds lying behind the town.*

There are several good inns at Great-Driffield, and also a large room built by the gentlemen of the hunt for their own use, left in the care of the master of the Red-Lion: their meetings for the season begin in October, and end in February, lasting a week each time; there are several packs of hounds in the neighbourhood.—N. B. There is likewise an inn erected by the late Sir Christopher Sykes, Baronet, at the town of Wansford, the sign of the Trout, a pleasant situation, where gentlemen-anglers may be accommodated with good beds, and good stabling, &c. &c. &c.

* It has been recently discovered, that in the church at little Driffield lie the remains of Alfred the Great, one of the kings of Northumberland during the Saxon Heptarchy.

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CHAPTER III.

GRAYLING, OR UMBER.

THE Grayling is in proportion neither so broad nor so thick as a trout, and in size seldom exceeds from fifteen to eighteen inches: I have taken them from half a pound to two pounds, in several parts of Yorkshire. They delight in rivers that glide through mountainous places, and are to be met with in the clearest and swiftest of those streams: this fish may be eaten all the year, but its principal season is November and December, at which time its gills, and the list that runs down its back, are all black. The time of its spawning is in May: it is accounted by some the most delicious of all river fish; the flesh is white and firm, in flakes like a Salmon, and is esteemed very wholesome: it is a brisk sprightly fish when in the water, and remarkably swift, but when he feels the hook he is dead-hearted, and yields rather too soon to afford the angler much diversion: he feeds upon flies, grasshoppers, worms, and such like insects; therefore these sort of baits must always be used for him; but a well-scoured red worm is preferable to any other bait, if used about two inches from the bottom.

The same rules that have been laid down for taking the Trout, will also serve for the Gray-

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ling, only let your tackle be somewhat finer: some anglers when they make use of a fly, fasten their hooks to two or three hairs twisted, but the smallest and finest silk-worm gut is far preferable.

The Grayling has so quick an eye, that he has been known to take the bait four inches or more out of the water, when the sportsman has been angling for him standing on a bank or bridge. You may observe also that he is a much simpler fish than a Trout, for if you miss him ten times, he will still continue to rise at your fly, and this being his peculiar property, that he is more apt to rise than descend, your bait should never drag on the ground, but be three or four inches from the bottom, and for the same reason it will be more proper to use a float then a running line; but should you use the latter, the best ground-baits are brandlings, gilt-tails, tag-tails, meadow-worms well scoured, cod-bait, bark-worm, and flag-worm; and at the top he may be taken with either natural or artificial flies, or with the earth-bob or clap-bait.

THE BULL-TROUT, SALMON-TROUT, SALMON-PEAL, OR SCURF.

These are all different names for the same fish; in some places it grows to the length of twenty-four inches, in others it seldom exceeds sixteen or eighteen. I have caught them weighing from ten to fourteen pounds. This fish differs in shape

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from a Salmon in not having a forked tail; its head is shorter, and its body adorned with a variety of spots, the flesh is not so red, and the taste more strong and rank.

About the beginning of May they enter the rivers; where they delight in deep holes, and commonly shelter themselves under the roots of trees, generally choosing that side next the stream, the more readily to catch their food. They will rise keen at the artificial fly, like a Salmon; but the best baits for them are well-scoured brandlings, especially those that breed in a farmer's yard.—You may angle for them any time in the morning, and in the afternoon from four till night; they are in season all the summer; when you try to catch them, remember you keep out of sight, let your line fall into the stream, without any lead, except one single shot, and then it will be carried gradually into the hole. When you have a bite, you ought not to strike too eagerly; they feed freely enough and struggle hard for their lives.

THE SAMLET, FINGERING-PAR, OR PINK-TROUT,

Never exceeds three or four inches in length, and has teeth in the jaws, palate, and tongue; the body is covered with small scales like a Trout, the back full of black spots, and on the sides are five or six impressions of such a form, as though

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they had been made with fingers across the fish, hence some give them the name of Fingerings; in every one of these pits there is generally a red spot; their bellies are white, and their tails forked like a Salmon; their spawning time is about the beginning of November, at which time also Salmon spawning is at the height; and they are found only in places where these resort, and whether they wander into the sea or not, remains a doubt; I have taken them in the Tweed, the Tay, the Spray, and all other rivers where Salmon frequent. They delight in the most swift and rapid streams, where no other fish is able to abide.

You may angle for them at any time of the year; early in the spring they bite in sharp streams, where there is plenty of gravel, or wood, and very near the sides of rivers: the best baits are brandlings, gilt-tails, earth-bobs, and gentles; and from the middle of March to the middle of October, for your flies use the following, viz. the black, dun, brown, grey, and green or yellow gnat. After a hot day in summer, they always make to very shallow places in the evening, or the sides of large sand banks, where, with as small a fly as can be made, and pointed with a very small gentle, you may have excellent sport; use about two yards of the best single hair at the bottom of your line, and if you fish at ground give him time and you will be sure to take him. When you dress these fish, take the guts out at

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the gills without opening them: they have a very good flavour, and are always in season.—They are excellent baits for Salmon and large Trout, the same as minnow.

THE GUINIAD.

This fish is only found in a large water called Pemble-Meer, near Chester; but what is most remarkable appears to be this, that the river which runs by Chester, hath its head or fountain in Merionethshire, and, in its course, runs through this Pemble-Meer, which abounds as much with Guiniads as the river Dee does with Salmon; and yet it was never known that any Salmon were caught in the Meer, or Guiniads taken in the river. I should imagine the same means must answer in angling for this fish, as for others of the truttaceous kind: but it is so little known, even by report, that I can only hazard the conjecture; it is however said to be good food, of rather an insipid taste.

THE CHAR,

In this kingdom, is chiefly found in Windermere lake, in Westmoreland, which is from eleven to twelve miles in length; and it is said, perfectly smooth at the bottom.

The Char is spotted like the Trout, and its length seldom exceeds from fifteen to sixteen

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inches. They are reckoned very delicate food, and have scarce a bone except the back; they swim together in shoals, and though they appear on the surface of the water in the summer, they will not suffer themselves to be taken either with the angle or nets. But when they resort to the shallow part of the lake in order to spawn, about Michaelmas, they set trammel-nets baited, and leave them for a whole day and night, into which the fish enter of their own accord. I apprehend also, that at this season the Char are to be caught by the angle, with the same kind of ground-baits as are before recommended for other fish of this species.

I have now described such fish of the truttaceous kind as are known in England; but there are others which will give sport to the angler, both with flies and ground-baits, which are the Chub or Chevin, the Dace or Dare, the Roach, and the Bleak; the account of which will follow in the next chapter. I might add to these, the Smelt, which is to be met with in rivers near the sea; and the Flounder, which is to be taken with minnows, worms, &c. but being generally esteemed inhabitants of the salt water, and universally known, I shall omit giving a particular account of them.

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CHAPTER IV.

THE CHUB, OR CHEVIN.

THE Chub is of a longer make than the Carp, and has a larger and flatter head than a Dace; the back is of an obscure green, like an unripe olive. It is bred in rivers, and delights to abscond in holes, and under the shade of trees, in a sandy bottom, where cattle come to dung in the fords; in hot weather they generally swim in droves, and keep to one residence like the Barbel; in a Chub-hole I have met with many that have weighed from six to eight pounds. They spawn in May, in sandy or gravelly places, and in the very midst of the stream: they are best in season in the spring, when they are full of spawn.

Of all fish this is the best for a young angler, for it is very easily taken: however let me prescribe some rules for that purpose. You must find out some hole where you can meet with twenty or thirty of them together, in a hot day, floating almost on the surface of the water; then bait your hook with a grasshopper, but be sure to keep out of his sight, for he is a very fearful fish, and therefore the least shadow will make him sink to the bottom of the water, but he will rise again suddenly: having baited your hook, drop it gently before the Chub which you have selected by your eye to be the fairest and best; he will

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instantly bite greedily, and be held so fast by means of his leather mouth that he can seldom break hold; and therefore you will do well to give him play enough, and so tire him, otherwise you may endanger your line: if you cannot find a grasshopper, bait your hook with a fly or beetle, cod or case-worm.

In March or April angle with worms, or, if you have it properly prepared, with Salmon-spawn, which is a most excellent killing bait: in May, June, or July, you may chuse flies, snails, or cherries; the may-bug, or flying-beetle, is also an admirable thing in a hot evening under the boughs; but note, they will seldom refuse a grasshopper on the top of swift streams, or at the bottom, a young humble-bee.

In August and September, &c. make use of a paste of cheese pounded with saffron in a mortar, adding thereto a little butter.—Make a paste of Holland cheese and turpentine, for the winter season, at which time the Chub is in his prime; for then his forked bones are either lost or converted into gristle, and it is excellent meat baked or stewed, with rich sauce, in the manner you would dress a Carp.

There is another method I am told much practised in the Thames, and other wide and deep rivers, with a very strong rod or long staff from a tree, and a line about twice the length, they whip with a black snail under the boughs, the boat

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moving gently down the stream; the snail must be opened, and will then show a white inside: in this manner they catch the largest and strongest Chubs.

THE DACE, OR DARE.

The Dace is not unlike a Chub, but far less; his body is whiter and flatter and his tail more forked, he is not so broad as a Roach, and is a leather-mouthed fish. He breeds almost in all rivers, and generally lies near the top of the water; he is a very brisk and lively fish, and swims swiftly, like a dart, from whence he derives his name. These fish spawn in February and March, and are fit to eat by April or May, but their highest season is in September. They delight in gravelly or sandy bottoms, and the deepest parts of rivers, under the shade of trees, or dock leaves: they are a very simple breed, and will often bite when you least desire it; however their darling bait is a gentle at the bottom, and a small fly at the top; in the summer months an ant-fly is best; they will likewise take any paste, as well as all sorts of small worms. Angle for him with a very slender rod, a line of very fine single gut, at least for two yards above the hook, which must be a very small one; one small shot, a float made of two very small goose quills, cut within half an inch of the feather, thrust one of the open ends into the other and whip it fast with fine waxed

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silk: when you are so provided, get some white bread and bran, knead them well to the consistency of paste, and making it up into small balls, with a pebble in each, throw them into the water: bait with gentles and you will have excellent sport.

The Dace will take all sorts of flies if you point your hook with a gentle. In the spring he takes an earth-bob very well.

If the water be so high as to rise almost to the banks, fasten to your line an artificial fly called the caterpillar-fly, then take a large yellow gentle, the yellower the better, run your hook through his skin and draw him up to the tail of your artificial fly; this being done, whip it on the surface of the water, and if you are diligent and expert, you may assure yourself of good sport.

THE ROACH,

Is a handsome fish; it has a small head, a leather mouth, which is small also, and its teeth are in the throat; the circle of the eye resembles a gold colour; it has a hog back, which is tolerably thick for its size, the scales are large, the fins in general red, particularly when in season, and the tail is a little forked. It is a very silly fish, and the flesh of it but little esteemed, being rather bony, though exceedingly wholesome, and the roe is particularly good. The Roach are much better in some rivers than others, but there are none

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good in ponds. They are taken in the Driffield river as large as from two to three pounds weight; but the best size for eating is from one pound and a half to two pounds, and in my opinion are not so despiseable as many affect to think them, perhaps because being so numerous they are very common.

They delight in deep gentle running water, and holes that are well shaded, having a bottom of fine gravel, sand, or a kind of slimy marl, In the summer time they often frequent more shallow water, about the tails of fords, under banks, or among weeds, particularly when the water is thick. They spawn in May, begin to be in season in July, and continue so till near the same time of spawning again, but are far the best in winter: when out of season their scales are very rough, of a dull colour, and their fins not so red and beautiful.

The best way to angle for these fish is as follows: let your rod be long or short, proportioned to the place you fish in, rather stiff, and such an one as will strike true; your line about a foot and a half shorter than the rod, pretty strong, and taper to the bottom; the lower part should be a fine round and smooth silk-worm gut, of a water colour, and the hook No. 7 or 8; put one shot No. 3, four inches from the hook, and two or three more, No. 2, about five or six inches higher up, sufficient to sink the float (which should be a

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swan's quill) so that you may just discern the top of it above water.—When you fix on a place for sport, plumb the bottom, and let the bait float not more than two inches from the bottom, provided it is level, the run gentle, and the water deep and clear; in this manner I have had better sport in winter than at any other time.—When the water is coloured with a fresh, and especially if on the rise, you may take them best at the depth of a yard, or a yard and a half.

When you have thus taken the depth lay aside your rod, and throw in at the top of your swim three or four balls of ground bait, about the size of an egg, with a small stone in each to sink them to the bottom; this will gradually break and spread about, and entice the fish to stop there after being drawn together. The bait is thus prepared: take some coarse wheat bran, and a little sweet coarse flour, or bread, sufficient to bind the bran with scalding water, so as you may make it up in a large ball, but not so stiff as dough, so that it may not break in going down, for if it sticks together too much it will not divide in the water, if too little it will wash away and all the fish follow it. Be careful also when you throw your little balls that they do not go too far out, for you should fish over them; bait with two or three grains of Salmon-roe if you have any, which is by far the best bait; if not, a small round bit of red paste, (such as mentioned before for the Chub)

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or gentles, will supply the want of it. You must keep a sharp eye on the float, striking at the least nibble; and when you hook a fish, if it be large, give him play, for they are very strong and struggle much, therefore use the roundest and smallest silk-worm gut for near two yards of your line next the hook.

They are also to be taken in warm weather with cads and natural flies under water, and with artificial flies at the top. In winter you may fish for them with paste or gentles, and in spring with worms or cod-bait; but in very hot weather use small white snails, earth-bobs, and new cheese.

THE BLEAK,

Is a very small fish, scarcely ever attaining to more than five inches long, his body is beautifully covered with thin silver scales, he is of a more slender make than a Dace, and his head is proportionably less; he has large eyes, and the lower part of the iris is spotted with red, the inside of his mouth is like that of a Carp, and provided in the same manner: they are to be met with in most inland rivers of England in great plenty, and reckoned to be best in season in autumn, when they are delicious food. They spawn in March, and recover their strength in about a month's time.

The best baits for them in the cold months are well scoured red worms, or gentles; and in sum-

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mer, I have taken twelve dozen at a time with the artificial ant-fly; there can be no better sport than whipping for Bleak off a high bank in swift water on a summer's evening. I would recommend for this purpose, to tie two small black wings on a very little hook, and instead of a body to the fly, supply it with a gentle or two; this is by far the best method that can be used.

Having now given an account of such fish as will promiscuously take the fly and ground-bait, I shall, in the next place, proceed with those that are in general only to be taken by the latter means, and which are equally the inhabitants of rivers, lakes, and fish-ponds; beginning, as the first for dignity and sport, with the Pike, on whom I shall bestow a long chapter.

CHAPTER V.

THE PIKE.

THE Pike is a very long lived fish, and is supposed to attain a greater age than most others, which may be deemed a misfortune, he being so extremely voracious; and is properly called the Tyrant of the fresh waters.

The largest Pike are the coarsest food, the smaller being ever the best; contrary to the nature of Eels, which increase in goodness in proportion to their bulk and size.

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He is a solitary fish, never swimming in shoals, but resting himself alone: if we may credit report, a Pike has been known to fight an Otter for a Carp he had taken and was carrying out of the water. Another bit a woman who had a gold ring upon her finger, when washing her hands in the river Costa, near Pickering, pulled her into the water, and nearly drowned her; from which circumstance the town of Pickering in Yorkshire is said to have derived its name. I shall add one other instance of its voracity, which I can depend upon from the person who informed me of it.

On a large lake belonging to a gentleman's domains in the south of England, a swan was observed for two or three days with its head under the water, as if diving for weeds; at length, the servants observing the bird still in the same posture, acquainted their master with it, who immediately ordered them to make use of their drag nets; which, when pulled on shore, discovered that the swan had been seized by a very large Pike in the act of dipping its head, and both of them dead.

In short, this fish from its greediness has justly obtained the name of the fresh water Shark; and frequently for want of other food, or being the nearest to him, will devour its own kind; perhaps kindly intended by nature, that the breed may not superabound: there will still be enough left utterly to ruin all rivers and other places where

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they are not kept under, although they breed but once in a season.

The Pike usually feeds on fish or frogs, and sometimes it is said on a weed of his own, called pickerel. Some idle and fanciful speculatists suppose that the fish themselves are produced from this weed; those who maintain this opinion asserting, that though none have been put into ponds, yet they have always been found in abundance where there has been plenty of that weed. Were they indeed viviparous, like the Eel, there would at least be more ostensible pleas in their favour: as the young coming forth alive would some of them be deposited at random, on weeds, roots, or stones; but so absurd a doctrine should be by this time sufficiently refuted: in the present enlightened age, let this vulgar error, among many others, yield to the universal law of nature, which holds in vegetables as well as animals, that nothing can be produced but by the seed of its own species; even the flies in corrupted flesh are no otherwise the effect of that corruption, than as it serves them for a proper nest and nourishment; and doubtless, by parity of reason, there will be more Pike found where there is plenty of their favourite weed than in other places, without the weed contributing in the least to their original production.

Pikes grow to a very large size; I have seen one taken out of Mr. Bethel's pond at Rise, near

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Beverley, Yorkshire, upwards of thirty-eight pounds weight, with a trimmer. In the year 1790, John Wilson, Esquire, of Hull, caught one in the Driffield river that weighed twenty-eight pounds, and was thirty-five inches in length; it was presented to Richard Langley, Esquire, of Wykeham-Abbey, lord of the said manor, and was judged to be one of the best fish of the kind ever eat: it was certainly the largest and finest ever taken at Driffield. I have taken several in the same river, that have weighed from twelve to eighteen and twenty pounds, by trolling, and also by the snap; and even when trolling for Trout with the minnow, and gut next the hook, have by chance taken them from five to ten pounds.

They begin spawning about the middle of February, if the season be forward, and retire till towards the latter end of March into creeks or ditches, as is supposed that other fish may not devour their spawn, and where there is a sufficient supply of water. In ponds they seek the neck or shallow parts of the water, among weeds, mud, roots, gravel, &c. where the spawner casts her eggs, and the milter performs his office.--About the middle of September you may see hundreds of the small fry (if the water be over the banks by a flood, or stopt by flood-gates) among short weeds and grass, feeding on very small yellow frogs, and worms; at which time they are from two to two and a half inches long: next year about the

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same time, they will grow from eight to ten and fifteen inches in length, if the river be clear in which they are spawned.

When the Pike arrives to twenty-eight or thirty inches in length he is generally at a stand, and then thrives most in thickness: it is a very uncommon thing to meet with them full four feet long, though I have seen one that measured four feet two inches.—The best fish are those that are bred in rivers; the females are preferable to the males; the worst are taken in meers or ponds. They are in season from the beginning of May till spawning time; the flesh is firm, dry, and sweet; from seven to twelve pounds are the best fish, and under three they are watery and insipid.

The Pike is fond of a quiet, shady, unfrequented water, and lurks in the midst of weeds, flags, or bull-rushes; yet he often makes excursions from thence, and ranges about in search of prey. In winter and cold weather, he lies deep and near the bottom: his best biting times are early in the morning and late in the evening, when there is a brisk wind, and where the water is clear; if they are inclined to the bait, they will take it after three or four trials; it is therefore needless to throw it often in the same place.

Towards the summer, as the weather grows warm, he frequents the shallows; in a very hot, clear, sultry day, he may be seen lying on the surface of the water, but then you cannot tempt

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him with any bait. I have frequently shot them thus basking themselves in the sun, which is to be done by aiming right under them; for there is a great deception in the water, both by varying the appearance of the object, and when fired into, by causing the shot to rise.

To Angle for Pike.

Let your rod be strong, such as you troll with for Salmon, with a reel or winch placed on the but-end of it, sufficient to hold about forty or fifty yards of strong hair line, at the end of which must be a swivel to fasten on your armed wire, or gimp: there are many ways of taking this fish, the first that I shall describe is called dipping, and is performed as follows:

Let your hook be a large proper-sized gorge-hook, very slightly leaded on the shank, bait it by putting the wire or gimp in at the mouth of a small fish, such as a Gudgeon, Roach, Dace, small Trout, Salmon-fry, &c. and bringing it as near the tail as possible, for which purpose you should have a needle seven or eight inches long; put the gimp loop on the small curve or eye of the needle, thrust it into the mouth of the fish and bring it out as above-mentioned; draw it out for the hook to be close in one corner of its mouth, which must be then sewed up, and the tail tied up to the wire, or gimp, very neatly with a bit of white thread; cut away the back fin, and loop

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on to your swivel. When you begin to angle, let out your line to a convenient length, and fish where the water is not very deep, but overspread with docks and weeds, except in some parts where you have room to get in your bait: the fish hanging with its head downward, will, with a gentle motion, sport and play among the weeds very naturally, and the Pike will be eager of taking it this way, even near the surface of the water: when he seizes your bait, slacken your line and let him take it down and run with it, if he has room; in a short time afterwards you will perceive the line and rod top to shake, which is a good time to strike, or else give him time to gorge it, as your judgment may direct: when you hook one manage him gently, winding up your line by degrees; and when you think it is time to land him, bring him quietly through the weeds, with his nose above them; and if you have not a landing net, be careful how you take him out of the water, for his bite is very sharp; the best way is to take him with your finger and thumb in his eyes. Be sure to let your baits be fresh and clear.

The next method, which is very pleasing, is called trolling.

Your rod and line must be the same as before, the hook either double or single: the double hook is made of two large ones, with long shanks, tied together nearly back to back, then whipped to a piece of proper brass wire about five inches long,

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and to the wire half a yard of gimp should be added, with a small loop at top; the hook must be leaded two inches up the wire, the piece of lead running small to the upper end, and a quarter of an inch square at the lower end: the single hook is completed the same way, always observing to choose one with a long shank; they are baited the same way as before directed, only cutting away one of the fins at the gills, and another at the vent on the contrary side, and keeping the points of the double hook towards his eyes when it is drawn close to his mouth: angle for them this way in deep strong water, near to weeds, bull-rushes, water-docks, hollow banks, stumps of trees, &c. cast your bait across the water, and work it up and down in such places as you judge proper, keeping it in continual motion, by sometimes letting it sink a considerable depth, and at other times raising it gradually: you need not make more than three or four trials in a place, for if a Pike be there he will seize the bait within that time if he intends taking it at all; when he has got it, give him line and he will run to his hold to swallow it: in a short time afterwards you may use your rod and line sharp, (as before observed) if that be not the case let him alone for five or six minutes from the time that he first made off, then strike and manage with discretion, and he is your own: but, if after he has run with the bait, he makes scarcely any stay at his hold but goes off

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again, you should not strike him till he has rested a second time, allowing him still about five or six minutes; but should he run once more before that time is expired, draw a tight line and strike instantly; if you hook him, and he proves a large fish, give him line enough which will exhaust his strength; in time wind up your line by degrees, but do not pull him roughly, for if you do he will plunge in such a manner that though he may not be able to break your tackle, yet he may tear away his hold: when you have brought him within sight, if he begins again, proceed in the same manner till you master and kill him. Pike are to be enticed by a large bait, but a small one is much more certain: take care that all is clear from dirt and weeds when you recast it into the water, which must be done gently, or you will frighten the fish instead of encouraging him to take it.

There is another way of trolling by the hand: the hook being baited and fixed to the end of the line, the other end must be tied round the wrist of the person using it, or through the button-holes of his coat; the line must be gradually taken up in length in the left hand, except about three quarters of a yard, which is held in the right hand near the bait; then with a spring-jerk away flies the bait to the extent of the line in general, letting it sink a little, drawing the line with such a motion as to keep the bait in good play; by this method many large fish are caught.

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The next way is called taking them at snap, for which you must be provided with a double spring hook, being much preferable to all others, as it never fails.

When you bait for the snap, you must make a hole in the side of the fish-bait, as near the middle as you can, with the point of a probe, or your hook; put in your armed wire or gimp, draw it out at the fish's mouth and sew it up. When you fish thus for the Pike, be sure you strike him the contrary way from that which he runs; the snap is best used in March or April, the Pike being very shy, and though they will seize the bait with seeming eagerness, yet they will often let it go again immediately; to be even with them, therefore, I generally strike as soon as they take the bait; when the Pike comes you may see the water move, and the moment you feel him, strike the contrary way from that he takes it; you must play your fish-bait with a quicker motion at the snap than in other ways.—Another, and most destructive means, is the following:

Let your hook be single, with rather a long shank, and before you fix your swivel at the bottom of your reel-line, put a cork-float that will swim a Gudgeon; then put on the swivel and fix the gimp, on which your hook must be well and neatly whipped; add a large shot or two to make the float stand up a little, that when the Gudgeon is on, it may do so properly: you must have your

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Gudgeon quite alive, and when you bait with one, stick the hook either through the upper lip or back fin; then angle in deep and likely places, letting the bait swim at mid-water, moving the float either higher or lower according to the place; when you have a bite, let the fish run a little and then strike; by this means you will take large Perch as well as Pike, especially if you fish with a very small Gudgeon, or Minnow: in this way you will often meet with a double prize; for as the Perch is descending with his prey, he will sometimes be seized by a Pike; as they are both tyrants alike, I wish you success in securing them.

Although this fish does not belong to the species that rise naturally at flies, yet let the angler take notice that there is very extraordinary sport to be had with them, particularly with such an one as I shall describe. The fly must be larger than even those used for Salmon; it must be made on a double hook, formed of one piece of wire fastened to a good link of gimp; it must be composed of very gaudy materials, such as the feathers of the gold and common pheasant, peacock, mallard, &c. with the brown and softest part of bear's fur, a little dark and reddish mohair, with yellow and green mohair for the body, and four or five turns of gold twist slanting round the body; the head must be formed of a little dark brown mohair, some gold twist, and two small black beads for the eyes; the body about three inches long, and

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made rough, full, and round; the wings not parted, but to stand upright on the back, and some smaller feathers continued thence all down the back to the end of the tail, so that where you finish they may be left a little longer than the hook, and the whole to be about the thickness of a tomtit, and near three inches long.

N. B. These sort of flies, and all other artificial baits for pike, are to be had of Mr. Ustenson, in the Strand, Mr. Chevalier, and other tackle-makers, in London.

I have also taken them at times with an artificial May-fly, and other large flies; but this is chiefly to be done in lakes, and broad waters, in dark and windy days, when the wind is at south, or west, and best in a boat carried gently across, or driving down the stream; observing to move the fly quick, and to keep it about two inches under the surface of the water if possible: in this manner you may take Pike when other baits avail nothing. They are also to be taken with artificial frogs, water-rats, mice, and calves'-tails; a small Eel is also a good bait for them, or Perch with the fins cut off; and indeed, in laying trimmers, I have known all those that were served with this bait to be taken, whilst the others were totally deserted; thus nature has determined that one despot shall prey upon another; and was it not for that strong defence given them of the prickles on the back,

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the Perch, I believe, would not be so fond of choosing the same haunts.

Your live baits should be kept in a tin kettle, with holes made in the side: change your water often, which will keep them alive a long while.

There are other ways of taking Pike which do not strictly come under the head of angling; but being so enormous a depredator, I think too many means of destroying him cannot be marked out; for do all you can there will still be too many of them left.

I shall now describe a ledger-bait which is fixed to a certain place, and may be left whilst you angle for other fish: it is best to have your baits alive; stick the hook through the upper lip, or back fin, if it be a fish, if a frog, put the arming-wire in at his mouth and out at his gill, and tie the leg above the upper joint to the wire; the yellowest frogs you can get are always the best; fasten your wire or gimp to a strong line, fifteen or sixteen yards long, the other end to a stake made fast in the the ground, or the stump of a tree, near the Pike's haunt; then place a forked stick conveniently near the water, and let the line pass through the fork, suspending the bait about a yard or more in the water, and fix the line slightly in a notch made at one end of the fork, that when a Pike takes the bait it may easily slip out, so that he may run off with the line into his hole. A better way still is to have a large winch, or reel,

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to hold your line, made fast to an iron spindle to fix into the ground.

The next method, and the last I shall mention, is called the decoy-bait; which although it will occasion much diversion to the spectators, is at the same time very cruel and terrifying to the poor birds concerned in it.

Make fast a line, with a baited hook and armed wire, to one of the legs of a goose, or large duck, of such a length as to swim about mid-water; throw it into the river or lake where Pikes frequent, keeping it off the land as much as you can; upon the bait being taken, the duck will instantly be drawn under water, but upon recovering from the surprise, will soon force her head up again, and attempt to set up a loud quacking, when in a moment she will be taken down again; and this contest will continue for some time, if the fish be tolerably large, till at last the duck, though sometimes nearly exhausted, will drag her prize on shore. A goose being a much stronger bird, is seldom or never taken under water, even by very large Pike; but will be so much scared at the attack, and so bewildered for a time, by being pulled about in so many directions, that at last, upon taking courage, she begins to lash the water with her wings, and adding every effort of strength to her activity, secures a landing.

You may also take them by a quantity of blown bladders tied strongly together, at the bottom of

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each having a line to carry the bait about mid-water: set them off with a gentle wind, sufficient to move them properly: the Pike having taken the bait, the bladders will dance and tumble about in a diverting manner; when the fish is spent, you may throw out a grapple to recover them, if within your reach; but in broad waters a boat will of course be necessary: these, with trimmers and night-lines, include all the methods I have seen practised of catching Pike with a bait.

There still remains to relate a means by which numbers of these fish may be taken in a day, but that must be in the warmest part of it, and in the hot months, this is by snaring, or haltering.

The Pike at this time will lie near the top of the water; when you see one thus, fix your eyes steadfastly upon him, without looking off, or else he will be gone; have your snare ready prepared, as follows: choose a taper pole that is stiff and strong, but not too heavy, and about four yards in length; at the small end of which, fasten a well-tempered brass wire, made into a noose or snare: having opened the noose wide enough to slip over the fish's head without touching him, let it down in the water with your pole, even in depth with the Pike, but two yards before him, and guide it very gently towards his head, fixing your eyes full upon him, till you have brought the snare over his head and gill fins, but no farther, then immediately with a strong upright jerk, hoist him to land.

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CHAPTER VI.

THE PEARCH, OR PERCH.

THE Perch, as a fish of prey, is next in greediness to the Pike; having a very wide mouth, with large teeth; a hog back, on which are two fins armed with sharp prickles, which rise to a considerable height, and are his chief defence against other watery monsters; his skin is covered over with thick, hard, dry scales, which form a kind of coat of mail, and his body is thick and broad: these fish are taken, where they run large, from ten to sixteen inches in length; they are very ravenous, and bold feeders, devouring even their own kind, but are very wholesome and good eating.

In the early part of the season they are chiefly to be found in gentle streams, that are not very deep, and where there are weeds and other lurking-places; under hollow banks, in gravelly bottoms, and at the turning of eddies; at the end of summer, and in autumn, they frequent deeper parts of the river, generally choosing deep and wide holes, if they can find them, by bridges, or any wooden piles, or near the roots of trees.

They spawn the latter end of February, and in March. There are many baits for taking the Perch, but a worm, minnow, or very small frog is the best; your worms should be well-scoured

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brandlings, red dung-hills, or those found in rotten tan: your hook No. 4, 5, or 6, being well whipped to a strong silk-worm gut. If you fish with two worms, put them on as heretofore described for the Salmon and Trout; but, in my opinion, a single one is best: use a small float, and keep the bait about nine inches from the bottom, and sometimes near mid-water. If you angle in a large water, or lake, where you may chance to meet with Pike, I would always recommend to tie the hook on very small gimp.

To draw the fish together, take three or four balls of the best stiff clay that can be procured, make holes in them, put one end of a lob-worm in each hole and close the clay fast upon them, then throw them into the water where you mean to angle, about a yard distant from each other; the worms being alive in the balls will, when loosened by the water, move and twist about, which tempts the fish to feed upon them; but the worms that you angle with being of a superior kind, they will, on sight of them, leave those in the clay and seize yours with the greatest eagerness. When you have thus brought them upon their feed, you may have sport with them till they are nearly all destroyed; but give them time to swallow the bait, for if you should suffer two or three to escape after being hooked, it is ten to one but they all leave off biting, as by one consent, and perhaps quit the place. It is pleasant sometimes to see

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seven or eight of these fish, rising after the one that has taken your bait, nearly to the top of the water, seemingly anxious for the fate of their companion, or perhaps in hopes of taking the bait from him, which it is not possible to determine; however beware of letting your prey go in this situation, or you may seek out for a fresh biting place.

Not only Perch, but many other kinds of fish Barbel, Bream, &c. are to be drawn together by means of these clay balls.

If you are out in a bad day, and the fish will not be thus brought to feed, slip your float up the line near to the point of your rod, or take it off, and begin to rove for them thus:

Let down the line longer than the rod, or as long as you can properly throw it out without injuring your bait, which should be worms or small minnows, and throw it sometimes right across the water, sometimes up or down, and in all directions, drawing the bait towards you, and playing it with the same motion as you spin the minnow; so keep moving about, angling in such places as you think proper; when a fish takes the bait, slacken the line and give him time before you strike: there is good sport to be had in bad weather by this means, when all other methods would avail nothing; but more especially when there has been a rough wind from the south or west.

When you rove with a minnow let it be alive; stick the hook in at his back fin, or upper lip, and

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let him swim in mid-water or a little lower, by means of a cork float, such an one as the minnow cannot take under water, with a few shot on your hook, about eight inches from it to keep the bait down, otherwise when tired he will come to the top of the water. When you fish with a frog, put the hook through the skin of his back and he will swim the easier: when you have a bite, be sure that you give him line enough, and let him gorge the bait; this way of fishing is best in the latter end of April, May and all June, for then the Perch are roving about in search of young fry of the Dace, Roach, and other fish.

Perch bite best in the latter part of the spring, and in the autumn, but are to be taken all the year round, in warm weather, when there is a little wind, generally from sun-rise for three or four hours in the morning, and in the evening for some hours before sun-set; but in the month of September I have had great diversion with them for the whole day through.

THE BARBEL,

Is a handsome well-shaped fish; the back is of an olive colour, the belly silver; it is speckled on the back and sides with small black spots; his make is long and roundish, and his snout sharp; the mouth not large, but the upper jaw is more prominent than the lower; he has four barbs, or wattles, from which he derives his name, two at

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the corners of his mouth and two near the end of the snout. The Barbel cannot well endure cold, and therefore in the winter-time is sick and languid, but in the summer clean and sound; the flesh is soft and flabby, and in no great esteem: the spawn is said to be unwholesome; the male is thought much better than the female: their principal season is August and September; their size from one and a half to two feet long; the sort that are usually met with are from two to six or eight pounds weight. This fish is bred in most rivers; in the summer he haunts the swiftest and shallowest streams, where he lurks under the weeds, and works and roots with his nose in the sand like a hog: in autumn he retires to bridges, flood gates, locks, and weirs, or the midst of streams, where the waters are swift and deep; he never feeds off the ground, and takes any sort of worm, bits of bacon, or old cheese if it be kept in a linen bag, dipped in honey, two or three days to make it tough; the greaves that are to be had at the tallow chandler's for a ground-bait over night, are very good; yet most commonly the same worm is used that is baited with. They are a very subtle strong fish, struggle hard for their lives, and will often pick off your baits: his time of biting is early in the morning till nine or ten o'clock, and from four in the evening till sun-set; but at times I have had excellent sport with them the whole day through: you may fish for them from the lat-

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ter end of May to the end of autumn, but I prefer September before any other month, as by that time they are sure to be met with in deep holes, and the weather is not too cold. In the summer they come to the shallows about sun-set, where they may be taken with a well scoured lob-worm; you have no occasion for a float, but must put a large bullet on the reel-line, made fast about a yard above your hook, that your bait may lie ledger; you must have a very strong silk-worm gut next your hook, at the bottom of your reel-line; for the Barbel is so very strong, and will make so many attempts to run off, that a winch is as necessary here as for a Trout.

THE BREAM,

Is a broad flat fish, with a small head and a sharp snout; they breed both in rivers and lakes, but delight chiefly in the latter; for which reason they are never found in swift, rapid streams, but only in such parts of rivers as more resemble standing waters, with muddy bottoms: they swim in herds the same as Perch do.

The Bream seldom grows to the size of more than five or six pounds; but I have heard of their being taken of ten pounds weight. They spawn in May, and are in the highest season in March and April; they naturally feed among slime, weeds, and dirt, but will take any sort of paste, the brood of bees or wasps, flies six inches under

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water, and cod-baits, but a short well-scoured marsh-worm, or a red worm, or two or three well scoured brandlings will prove most successful. They bite best when there is a breeze of wind, and the water is rough; your bait must be placed within a foot or fifteen inches of the bottom; the likeliest places to meet with them are the deepest and broadest parts of a river, early in a morning and from four or five in the afternoon till sun-set: when the weather is warm they bite very slow, and the larger they are the slower; as soon as you have struck one, he will immediately make to the bottom and stay there some time; but if he stops too long, give him a gentle touch and he will immediately rise and give two or three strong tugs, but when you have once turned him he will soon yield.

The best mode of angling for him is to seek a shallow sandy bottom, that leads to a deep hole; then throw into the shallow part of the stream, three or four handfuls of marsh or red worms cut in pieces, which will soon drive into the hole: use a rod about sixteen feet long, of good strength, with a reel-line proportionable, a small hook, No. 6 or 7, but no float; the hook must be tied to fine, strong silk-worm gut; put a cut shot about eight inches from the hook, and over that a small bullet, in the same manner as for Barbel; the use of the shot is to keep the bullet from slipping lower; this done, bait your hook with a well scoured

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marsh worm, throw it into the shallow and the stream will draw it into the hole; by this method, on a good day, you take as many as you please.

THE RUD, OR RED-EYE.

This fish is supposed by many to be a spurious breed between the Roach and the Bream, being found in the same ponds and lakes; and indeed his fin may well warrant such a conjecture: the body is shaped very much like a Bream, but thicker, the back is very round and high like a hog; the fins are all red, and the whole body of a reddish cast, especially the iris of the eye (from whence he derives his name) which is redder even than that of the Roach, and the scales are larger: when it is scaled the skin looks greenish; the palate is like that of a Carp. These fish usually measure from ten to twelve inches; they spawn in May, among the roots of trees, and are angled for in the same manner as the Roach, or Dace, with worms or gentles.

THE EEL,

Is a fish of passage, and to be found in almost all waters that have any communication with the sea. There are several sorts of them; the silver Eel has a dark brown back, and white belly, with a head small and sharp: the green Eel has a

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broad, flat head, and is much flatter towards the tail than the other, having the back of a dark green colour, and the belly of a whitish green: the black Eel has a larger head than the two former, a black back, and yellow belly, and the flesh is reckoned unwholesome, particularly those taken out of mud in standing waters; but indeed none of them bear any comparison to the silver Eel first described, which is very delicious food.

Eels are supposed to be viviparous, bringing forth their young alive: I have myself opened numbers, and have found within many of them a small, soft, whitish substance knotted, together very curiously; which, upon examination, appeared when separated, to be perfect small Eels, capable of moving, though some of them were no thicker than a very fine needle.

They may be caught by several sorts of baits, but principally with powdered beef, lob-worms, minnows, hen-guts, and garbage of fish; but some prefer a pride, or lamprey, to every other kind of bait.

As Eels abscond in winter, taking up their constant residence in mud, without stirring out for four or five months, so in the summer they take delight to be abroad in the day, at which time they will feed, if the water be thick: but the most proper time to take them is in the night, fastening your line to the bank side, with your hooks laying in the water; or you may throw a

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strong line across the stream, with a number of hooks tied on pack-thread, and properly baited, hanging from it at convenient distances, and a cork at top to discover where the line lies, that in the morning you may take it up with your drag-hook.

There is another method of taking Eels, which is called sniggling or broggling for them: take a strong line, and hook baited with a lob or garden worm, and marking such holes and places where the fish use to hide themselves in the day-time, near weirs, mills, or flood-gates, gently, by the help of a stick, put your bait into those holes where you imagine Eels are; and if there are any you will be sure of a bite; but then take care you pull not too hard, lest you spoil all: here note, that the top of your stick must be cleft, wherein you must put a strong hook, this stick must guide the bait into the hole where the Eel is, by which means you may, if your tackle holds, get as large ones as are to be found in rivers, mill-dams, ponds, or flood-gates.

Bobbing for Eels is done after another manner, i. e. take very large lob or marsh-worms well scoured, and with a needle run some strong twisted silk, or worsted thread through them from end to end; take so many that you may wrap them on a board a dozen times at least; then tie them fast with the two ends of the silk, that they may hang in so many hanks; fasten all to a strong cord, and about seven inches from the

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worms, fix a plumb, from half a pound to three quarters of a pound weight, and tie the cord to a stiff pole: having so done, fish in muddy water, bearing the worms, as near as you can guess, just clear of the bottom; and when you feel the Eels tug lustily at them, gently draw up your line till you have brought your Eels to the top of the water, and then bring them to shore as fast as you can; but take care in striking not to do it with a jerk, by which means you might lose your sport; as the fish, you will remember, are not caught by a hook, but only hanging to the worms and silk: I have taken seven or eight large Eels at a time this way.

Very large Eels are caught by baiting night-hooks with small Roach or Minnows; and let the hooks lie in the mouth of the fish. Some persons near the Eel-haunts sink a bottle of hay, loosely, bound, and stuffed with fowls' guts, and liver cut in long shreds, over night, and coming early next morning, and drawing it up hastily, by the rope fastened to the band, find large Eels bedded in it for the sake of the prey: but this may be better done with a bundle of brushwood, out of which, upon pulling them up, they cannot so easily get.

I cannot dismiss this subject without taking notice, that on most rivers of any consequence in England, there are weirs built on the different royalties, wherein very large baskets, usually called bucks, are laid close to each other quite

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across the stream, the Eels are sure to be caught when they begin to drop down towards the sea; the best run is reckoned to be during the first thick water after heavy rains in the summer, and in the darkest nights; for it has been observed that where there is any white object near, such as a net, house, or fishing-house plaistered, the fish will be sure to be caught on the other side of the stream. The weirs are very profitable to the owners, vast quantities of Eels being caught by their means. I have also seen them so constructed, that without bucks, the fish were impelled either on one side or the other, into traps and reservoirs prepared for them, something like those mentioned in the account of the Salmon.

This is an object of considerable importance in different parts of the country, as an article of food, which can be kept for many months, with a little expense.

THE GUDGEON,

Is generally five or six inches long, of a smooth body, with very small scales, the back of it is dark, but the belly pale: they are to be met with in most rivers.

This fish spawns twice in a year, the latter end of April and in November; his flesh is very well tasted, of easy digestion, and very nourishing; insomuch, that some think it no way inferior to

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a Smelt. He delights in sandy, gravelly bottoms, gentle streams, and small rivers; in the summer time he resorts to the shallows, in the winter to the deeps: he bites all day from April to Michaelmas, from about an hour after the sun rises to an hour before he sets. The principal baits are small red worms, gilt-tails, brandlings, and meadow-worms; he will likewise take a gentle, cod-bait, brood of wasps, or cow-dung-lob, but the small red worm is what pleases him best.

The best method of angling for this fish in large rivers, is to fix a boat, or punt, across the stream, with a large pole at each end, shod with iron, that they may the better drive into the gravel; in this way two or three persons may sit in the boat and fish at the same time, having first drawn the Gudgeons together by disturbing the ground with a long rake: your line should be small at bottom, and your hook the same, No. 8; put your float in as close to the boat as you can, and let your bait swim down the stream, as near as possible to the bottom, should it even touch in some places it will be never the worse: by these means vast quantities of these pleasant little fish may be taken, as they bite very greedily; and when they begin to give over feeding at one pitch, (which will be the case) immediately remove your boat to another.

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THE POPE OR RUFF.

This fish, with a double name, is small, and seldom grows bigger than a Gudgeon; in shape it is not unlike a Perch, and would be exceeding good food, was it not so very full of bones.

The Ruff makes most excellent sport for the unexperienced angler, for he is a very greedy biter, and like to be in great shoals together, where the water is deep, smooth, and clear; if you wish to catch a good quantity; bait your ground with earth, and angle for them with a small red worm.

THE MINNOW.

The minnow is so inconsiderable in size, that he would scarce be worthy of discourse, were it not that he serves for excellent baits to take larger and better fish; and indeed so immmerable is their breed, in almost all rivers, that it is supposed they tend, more than any other part of their food, to assist the growth of other fish; large quantities of Trout in particular are observed to attend on them, when they come about the month of May in vast shoals to spawn at their hills, or gathering places, generally on the brightest gravel, in some shallow part of a clear stream, the Trout lying a little below them in somewhat deeper water, where you may frequently see them

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dashing with great havock among them. These fish have a bitter flavour, but I have made a very good tansy of them by cutting off their heads and tails, and saucing them with butter, sugar, and verjuice. I should also suppose it would be an excellent method to dress them in the manner they do the white-bait in the neighbourhood of London.

Having now done with such fish as are equally inhabitants of rivers, lakes, and ponds, I shall finish with the description of the Carp and Tench, which reside more exclusively in the latter; and though they are to be found in rivers, I am inclined to be of opinion that they are carried thither by floods and overflowings of other waters.

CHAPTER VII.

THE CARP.

THE Carp is allowed by all to be the queen of the lakes and fish-ponds; its excellence on the table being universally admitted; the female is somewhat better shaped and larger than the male: they are a subtle fish, and longer lived than any of the fresh water breed, out of their proper element.

Carp are observed to breed several months in the year, and for this reason you shall hardly ever

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take either male or female without milt or spawn. They breed always better in ponds than in running water; in the latter very seldom, but where they do breed, their produce is innumerable.

He that intends to angle for a Carp, must arm himself with a deal of patience, by reason of the extraordinary subtlety and policy of that fish: next you are to observe, that he will scarce ever bite in cold weather, and in warm weather you cannot be too early or too late at your sport; should he be in the humour to feed, you need not fear his hold, for he is one of those leather-mouthed fish who have their teeth in their throat.

The Carp takes delight in worms, and sweet pastes, of which there are great variety: the best are made up of honey and sugar, and ought to be thrown into the water some hours before you intend to angle; or if you throw your paste, made into small bullets, two or three days before, it will not be the worse, especially if you throw in also chicken-guts, garbage, or blood, incorporated with bran, or cow-dung. You may make your paste in this manner: take a convenient quantity of bean flour, or any other flour, and mingle it with the flesh of rabbits, or veal minced small; make up the composition with honey, and then beat the whole together in a mortar, till it is so tough as to hang upon a hook without washing off; for the better effecting of which, mix it with some fine whitish wool; and if you would keep it all

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the year, add thereto some virgin's wax and clarified honey: if you fish with gentles, anoint them with honey, and put them on your hook with a piece of scarlet cloth dipped in the same.

This is the most approved method to deceive and captivate the subtle Carp; and remember to fish as far from you as your rod will admit of: and should the water be clear, keep as much out of sight as possible.

THE TENCH.

The Tench is a leather-mouthed fish, and from each corner of the mouth hangs a little barb; his eyes are large, and of a gold colour, having the iris red; it has small smooth scales, very large fins, and its body is of a yellowish brown.

Their haunts are chiefly among weeds, and in places that are well shaded with bushes and rushes; they delight and thrive more in foul than clear water, and are much more numerous in ponds, and pits, than in rivers; but those taken in the latter are far preferable in their flavour; it is a most delicious fish to the taste, and exceedingly wholesome.

They are to be angled for much in the same way as Carp; your tackle must be strong, with a proper float, the hook No. 3, to 6 or 7, whipped to a strong silk-worm gut, with two or three shot, No. 2; fish where there are weeds about two feet

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deep, or at mid-water, and sometimes lower, according as they are in the humour to take; but if there be not a great quantity of mud in the water, use clay balls, as for Perch, and now and then throw in a few gentles, which will keep them together; fish half a foot from the bottom, unless the mud be so deep as to cover the balls when thrown in; in which case keep to the former way, and bait the hole with bits of lob-worms and gentles.

When you have a bite, allow some time before you strike: they will take several baits, but the best of all is the small red worm taken out of rotten tan, and used without any scouring; though they will at times take the gentle, wasp, maggot, and green worm from the boughs of trees; they generally come out to feed several times in the day, but their best time of biting is late and early; and the best months for catching them are August and September, if the weather proves warm. When you take any out of muddy places, keep them alive for some time in a tub of water, where they will cleanse themselves from that muddy quality to which they are subject, and be much better for the table.

The Tench is esteemed the fish's physician, on account of a natural balsam which he is said to carry about him, that will cure both himself and others; so that if any other fish receives a wound, he will seek out the Tench, and rubbing the part

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affected against him (which the Tench will suffer him to do) receives a certain cure by virtue of this balsam, or slime; and it is affirmed that the voracious Pike himself, is so sensible of this virtue, that however greedy of prey, he will never hurt his physician: whether true, or not, this account passes current with other legendary tales.

CHAPTER VIII.

IN MAKING FISH PONDS.

A PRINCIPAL regard should be had to the choice of a fit place, and a proper soil. It is now generally agreed, that heathy land, inclinable to be moorish, and full of springs, is the best; let the situation, if possible, be at the bottom or side of a hill, that any sudden shower or continued rain may wash down worms, insects, and other things fit for the nourishment of the fish; this likewise will be the means of filling and refreshing the pond, if it has not the advantage of a brook or rivulet; moreover, it has been observed, that those ponds which have been so situated as to receive the stale and dung of cattle, have bred the largest and fattest fish.

The head of the pond should be at the lowest part of the ground, and the trench of the floodgate, or sluice, should have a pretty swift fall,

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that the water may not be too long in running out when it is to be emptied.

If more ponds than one are to be made at a time, it will be most beautiful and advantageous to have them placed one above another, in such a manner that the head of one may be next to the point or tail of the other. If the pond carries six feet of water it is sufficient, but yet it should be eight feet deep, that there may be room enough to receive the rains and freshes that may fall into it: in some places there should be shoals for the fish to spawn upon, and sun themselves in; as likewise holes, hollow banks, and roots of trees, to serve for retiring places: some cast in bavins in the most sandy places, not far from the side, which serve not only for the fish to spawn upon, but are defences for the young fry against such vermin as would devour them. Trees should not be planted so near the pond as to incommode it with the falling in of the dead leaves, because they spoil the water, muddy it, and render it disagreeable to the fish. In stocking the pond, if the fish are only designed for stores, they should be all of a sex, that is, either milters or spawners; by these means Carp will become large and exceeding fat in a short time.

The most usual fish which ponds are stocked with are Carp, Tench, Bream, and Pike: of these, Carp and Tench agree well enough together, but any other fish will devour their spawn. The Pike

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admits of no companion but the Perch, and he is not always safe, if not very large; however it is usual to put Roach, Dace, Bream, Chub, Gudgeons, and Minnows, into the same pond with him, that he may have wherewithal to satisfy his voracious nature, and grow fat the sooner: likewise care should be taken, that all the Pike which are put into the same pond, should be nearly of a size; because a Pike of thirty inches will devour another of eighteen; some grow more in length, others in thickness, which latter sort are the finest fish; for a lean slender Pike, though he seems to advance in length, is commonly in a decayed condition, by reason of some outward wound from the otter, or some stronger of his own kind, or an inward prick by the hook, or some other casualty; yet even in this condition he will be as hungry and as greedy as ever. It is observed by some, that Tench and Eels delight in those ponds chiefly, whose bottoms are full of mud; whereas the Carp likes a sound gravelly bottom, where grass grows on the sides of the pond; for in the hot months, if the water happens to rise, they will feed on it. Some make a square hole in the middle of their pond, three feet deep, and cover it with a sort of door, supported at the corners by four strong stakes driven into the ground; this provides the fish both with a place of shelter and retreat, and likewise preserves the pond from be-

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ing robbed, as the door and stakes would tear the nets all to pieces.

In the winter time, when there happens to be a hard frost, it will be necessary from time to time to break holes in the ice, in order to give the fish air, otherwise they will all die, for they cannot live long without fresh air; it must indeed be owned that this is a rule generally known, and as generally practised.

Care should likewise be taken to kill or drive away the enemies of fish, and devourers of their spawn; such as herons, cormorants, sea-gulls, king-fishers, water-coots, water-rats, bitterns, wild ducks, and otters, if they frequent the ponds; likewise tame ducks are great devourers of spawn, and the young fry of fish, and should not therefore be permitted to do mischief.

It is surprising that considering the benefit which may accrue from making of ponds and keeping of fish, it is not more generally put in practice; for besides furnishing the table, and raising money, the land would be vastly improved, and be worth more this way than any other whatsoever: suppose a meadow to be worth forty shillings an acre; four acres converted into a fish-pond, will return every year a thousand fed Carp, from the least size to fourteen or sixteen inches long besides Pike, Pearch, Tench, and others; the Carp alone may be reckoned to bring one with another, sixpence, ninepence, or perhaps a shil-

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ling each; amounting at the lowest rate to twenty-five pounds, and at the highest to fifty; which would be a very considerable as well as useful improvement.

FISH, HOW TO BRING THEM TOGETHER.

Get the blood of an ox, a goat, and a sheep, with dung of the same creatures taken out of the small guts; with thyme, origanum, penny-royal, savory, elder, garlick, lees of white wine, of each alike; the fat, or marrow, of the same creatures a sufficient quantity; beat all these that they may mix together; make the whole into lumps, and cast them into the fish-pond, or where fish are, an hour before you propose to catch them.

THE FOOD.

The best food to render Pike extremely fat is Eels, and without them it is not to be done in any reasonable time. The best feeding place for all sorts of fish, is a shoal place near the side, about two feet deep, and this will be the means to keep the deepest parts sweet and clear; besides whatever is thrown into the water, will be more readily caught up by the fish, and nothing will be lost.—Any sort of grain boiled is proper food for fish, especially peas and malt coarsely ground; also the grains after brewing, while fresh and sweet,

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are very proper; but one bushel of malt will go as far as two of grains; raspings and chippings of bread, or almost any scraps from the table, placed under a cask of strong beer or ale, in such a manner that the droppings of the liquor may fall among them, is excellent food for Carp; two quarts of this is sufficient for thirty, and if they are fed morning and evening it will be better than once a day only. From October to March, thirty or forty Carp in one stew-pond, may be kept well enough without feeding; but from March to October they must be fed as constantly as fowls in a coop, and they will turn to as good an account: and it must be always remembered, that constancy and regularity, in the serving of fish, will conduce very much to their feeding and thriving.

Besides the food already mentioned, there is one sort which may be called accidental, and that is, when pools or ponds happen to receive the wash of large commons, where flocks of sheep usually feed; the water being enriched by the dung, will maintain a greater number of Carp than otherwise it could do; for the same reason it is an advantage for cattle to stand in the water in hot weather, and dung in it, because it nourishes the fish very much.

Some feed Carp and Tench with mowings of grass, sheep and bullocks' blood, and chicken-guts, which will help the growth of the fish, and fatten them likewise; but then care should be ta-

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ken to supply them with no larger quantities than they can dispense with, otherwise they will rot and putrify, thereby making the water unwholesome.

I shall finish this account of rivers, lakes, fish-ponds, and their inhabitants, with a description of the fish's enemies, which are very numerous; besides the human foes, who claim a prescriptive right for their destruction.

A thousand foes the finny people chase,
Nor are they safe from their own kindred race:
The Pike, fell tyrant of the liquid plain,
With rav'nous waste devours his fellow train;
Yet howsoe'er with raging famine join'd,
The Tench he spares, a salutary kind;
Hence too the Pearch, alike voracious brood,
Forbears to make this gen'rous race his food;
Tho' on the common drove no bound he finds,
But spreads unmeasur'd waste o'er all the kinds.
Nor less the greedy Trout, and glutless Eel,
Incessant woes and dire destruction deal:
The lurking water-rat in caverns preys,
And in the weeds the wily otter slays:
The ghastly newt in muddy streams annoys,
And in swift floods the scaly snake destroys:
Toads, for the swarming fry, forsake the lawn,
And croaking frogs devour the tender spawn:
Neither the habitants of land nor air,
So sure their doom the fishy numbers spare.

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The swan, fair regent of the silver tide,
Their ranks destroys and spreads their ruin wide:
The duck her offspring to the river leads,
And on the destin'd fry insatiate feeds:
On fatal wings the pouncing bittern soars,
And wafts her prey from the defenceless shores:
The watchful halcyons to the reeds repair,
And from their haunts the scaly captives bear:
Sharp herns and cormorants their tribe oppress:
A harass'd race, peculiar in distress:
Nor can the muse enumerate their foes,
Such is their fate, so various are their woes.

CHAPTER IX.

INSTRUCTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS.

OF THE ROD.

THE double-handed rod, for Trout fishing, should never be less than sixteen feet long, and for Salmon at least eighteen feet, and proportionably stronger; it should be made with three joints besides the top joint, of which you should have several of different strength for the fly, the

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minnow, and bottom-fishing; but these rods are so common, and to be had at all the tackle-shops, that I shall give no further description of them: there also you may be supplied with single-handed rods for fly-fishing.

But in these latter days bag-rods have been invented, which the angler may easily conceal, and not proclaim to all the world where he is going: those for float-fishing are now become common, but this invention has lately been extended to rods for the fly, and all other kinds of angling. Screws to rods are not only heavy and apt to be out of repair, but are absolutely unnecessary; and the common way of inserting one joint into another is sufficiently secure, if the work be true.

Here follows the description of such a neat, portable, and useful one, as no angler that has once tried it will ever be without.

THE BAG-ROD.

Let the joints be four in number, exclusive of the top, and made of the best yellow hickery, or some such very tough wood, and two feet four inches in length; the largest joint not exceeding half an inch in thickness, and the rest in proportion; the tops must be lance-wood, red-wood, or bamboo, shaved and neatly dressed; and for the stock let it be of a young straight grown ash or willow, of an equal length with the other joints, and with a

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strong ferule at the smaller end, made to receive the large joint, which must be well shouldered and fitted to it with the utmost exactness; this rod will go into a bag, and be very convenient to take in a carriage, or will lie very well concealed in a pocket in the lining of your coat, on the left side, made straight on purpose to receive it.

OF THE STOCKS AND TOPS.

The best time of getting and seasoning stocks is in the winter season, when the trees have shed their leaves and the sap is in the roots, for after January it ascends again into the trunk and branches, at which time it is improper to gather stocks or tops. Let your stocks be taper grown, and your tops the best rush ground shoots you can get, not knotty, but proportionable and slender, otherwise they will neither cast nor strike well.

Having gathered your stocks and tops all in one season, as straight as you can, bathe them over a gentle fire, and set them as straight as possible; then lay them aside for three or four days, after which rub them over with a piece of flannel dipped in linseed oil, which will polish them and fetch off the superfluous bark, if any; tie them quite straight and so keep them till the spring, when they will be seasoned for use.

When your rod is completed varnish it over neatly, making your varnish of a pint of linseed

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oil and sixpennyworth of India-rubber scraped fine, put them over a slow fire and stir them well together till the rubber is dissolved, then boil and skim it; use it warm, and lay the rod aside till quite dry; it will appear on the rod like a fine thin bark, is very durable, and will preserve it from other injuries. If the rod is a hollow one, tie a rag to the end of a stick, dip it in linseed oil, and rub the inside well about three times a year.

OF THE LINE.

Your lines, whether for running or float-fishing, are best made of horse hair, unless you fish for Barbel, when they should be made of silk, or silk and hair mixed, and must be proportioned to the general size of the fish you expect; always remembering that the single hair, or gut, is to be preferred for small Trout, Salmon-smelts, Roach, or Dace-fishing. The reel-line must be very strong, and for the greater facility in throwing, should be from sixteen to eighteen hairs at the top, and diminished gradually; there are lines to be had at the tackle-shops that have no joints, but are wove in one piece from fifteen yards to twenty or thirty, and from that to one hundred and fifty, which length will be required for Salmon-fishing in very broad rivers: but notwithstanding these improvements, should you choose to make your own lines in preference to those twisted with the

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fingers, I would recommend the use of an engine, which may be had at any of the shops, consisting of a large horizontal wheel, and three very small ones, inclosed in a brass box about a quarter of an inch thick, and two inches in diameter; the axis of each of the small wheels is continued through the under side of the box, and formed into a hook; by means of a strong screw it may be fixed in any strong post, and is set in motion by a small winch in the centre of the box.—To twist links with the engine, take as many hairs as you intend each shall consist of, and dividing them into three parts, tie each parcel to a bit of fine twine about eight inches long, doubled and put through the aforesaid hook; then take a piece of wood, or cork, of a conical figure, two inches high, and two in diameter at the base, with a hook at the point; tie your three parcels of hair into one knot, and hang them on the weight: next cut three groves at equal distances in the sides of a common bottle cork, and placing it so as to receive each division of hair, begin to twist, which you will find to proceed with great evenness at the lead; as it grows tighter, shift the cork a little upwards, and when the whole is sufficiently twisted take out the cork, and tie the link into a knot: proceed in this manner till you have twisted links sufficient for your line, observing to lessen the number of hairs in each link, in such proportion that the line may taper at the bottom of your reel-line. When you

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fish with a fly, put about three or four yards of good gut for the cast-line, diminishing by degrees to the size of the fly link. I have found, by long experience, that a grey line like pepper and salt mixed, will, by its colour, best suit any water.

OF HOOKS.

Let your hooks be made of the best tempered steel wire, rather long in the shank, and strong and deepish in the bend, the point fine and straight, and as true as can be with the shank, which for fly-making should be tapered at the end, that the fly may be finished the neater; be careful also that the hook has a good barb. The best of this kind that I have seen, were made at Limerick in Ireland.

OF FLOATS, &c.

They are of many sorts, such as swan-quills, goose-quills, Muscovy duck-quills, and porcupine-quills; the first of which is the best when you use light baits in rivers or deep water, and the others for slow water, or ponds, where it is not very deep. For heavy fishing with worm or minnow, either in rivers or ponds, a cork-float is preferable, and is made of sound cork, without holes or flaws, bored through with a hot iron, and a quill put into it of a fit proportion, open at each

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end for the line to run through; cut the cork of a pyramidical form, and make it smooth with a fine file. The quill-floats must carry shot enough so as to sink them, that you may the better perceive the slightest nibble; and as to the cork-floats, let there be sufficient shot to make them stand upright in the water, when the shot is at the bottom, by which you may know when you fish there or not; for when the shot is on the ground, the float will fall on one side, and not stand up. When you go out a bottom-fishing, &c. you should have with you different kinds of lines, links, floats, and spare caps, split shot, shoe-maker's wax in a piece of leather, silk, a plummet to fix the depth of the water, red paste, gentles in a box, worms of different sorts, ground-baits, and a clearing-ring to disengage the hook when entangled, by running it up the rod, and gently down the line, by a strong twine long enough for any such purpose, to where the hook is fastened, if a stump or other immoveable thing; but if it be weeds, let it go below the hook, then pull at the twine, and the ring will break the weeds and save your line and hook; in the other case, if it does not bring away your hook, it will break the line near to it, and prevent it from bring strained in any other place: a landing-net to land large fish with; some are made with joints to fold up for convenience: a disgorge, to put down the throat of a fish when he has swallowed the hook, till you touch it, at the same

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time pulling the line it will be free; and a fish-basket to carry your fish in.

CHAPTER X.

RULES FOR MAKING FLIES.

TO frame the little animal, provide
All the gay hues that wait on female pride;
Let nature guide thee, sometimes golden wire,
The shining bellies of the fly require.
The peacock's plumes thy tackle must not fail,
Nor the dear purchase of the sable's tail.
Each gaudy bird some slender tribute brings,
And lends the growing insect proper wings.
Silks of all colours must their aid impart,
And every fur promote the fisher's art.
So the gay lady with expensive care,
Borrows the pride of land, of sea, and air;
Furs, pearls, and plumes, the glittering thing displays,
Dazzles our eyes, and easy hearts betrays.

GAY.

To make the useful artificial flies, furnish yourself with a pocket-case, that has many partitions in it, capable of holding the following materials; bears' hair of divers colours, such as grey dun, light and dark coloured, bright brown, and that

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which shines; also camel's hair, dark, light, and of a colour between both; badger's hair from the ear, light and dark brown,, blackish, and black; hog's down, which may be had about Christmas of butchers, or rather of those that make brawn; it should be plucked from under the throat, and other soft places of the hog, and must be of the following colours, that is to say, black, red, whitish, and sandy, and for other colours you may get them dyed; seal's fur is to be had at the trunk-makers; get this also dyed of the colour of cow and calf's hair in all the different shades, from light to the darkest brown; never heed cow or calf's hair, both which are harsh, and will never work kindly or lay handsomely; get also mohair, black, blue, purple, white, and violet; camlet, both hair and worsted, blue, yellow, dun, light and dark brown, red, violet, purple, black, pink, and orange colours: some recommend the hair of abortive colts and calves, but seal's fur, dyed as above, is much better; and observe, that hog's wool is best for large, and the seal's fur for small, flies.

A piece of an old Turkey carpet will furnish excellent dubbing: untwist the yarn and pick out the wool, carefully separating the different colours, and lay it by.

Get also furs of the following animals, viz. the squirrel, (particularly from his tail) fox-cub, from the tail, where downy and of ash colour; an old

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fox and an old otter; otter's-cub; badger; polecat; the fur of a hare from the neck, where it is of the colour of withered fern; and above all the yellow fur of the martern, from off the gills or spots under the jaws; all these, and almost every other kind of fur, are easily obtained at the furriers.

Hackles are very important articles in fly-making, the chief ones are the long slender feathers that hang from the head of a cock down his neck; there are also fine ones to be got from near his tail, and be careful they are not too rank, which they are when the fibres are more than half an inch long, and for some purposes these are much too large; be provided with these of the following colours, viz. red, dun, yellowish, white, orange, and perfect black; and whenever you meet with a live or a dead cock of the game breed, whose hackle is of a strong brown red, never fail to buy him; but observe, the feathers of a cock chicken, be they ever so fine for shape and colour, are good for little, as they are too downy and weak to stand erect after they are once wet. Feathers absolutely necessary for the wings and other parts of flies, are got from the back and other parts of the wild mallard, or drake; the feathers of a partridge, especially those red ones that are in the tails; feathers from a cock pheasant's breast, tail and wings; the wings of a black-bird, a brown hen, starling, jay, land-rail or throstle, fieldfare, and water-

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coot; the feathers from the crown of the pewet, plover, or lapwing, green and copper-coloured peacock and black ostrich's harl; feathers from a heron's neck and wings; and remember that in most instances where the drake or wild mallard's feather is hereafter directed, that from a starling's wing will do much better, as being of a finer grain and less spongy. Be provided with marking silk of all colours, fine and very strong; flaw silk, gold and silver flatted wire and twisted, a sharp knife, hooks of all sizes, silk-worm gut, India-weed, and the best white and grey horse hair for links to your flies, shoe-maker's wax, a large needle to raise your dubbing when flatted with working, and a small sharp pair of scissors; and, lastly, if any materials required in the subsequent list of flies, may have been omitted in the foregoing catalogue, be careful to add them to your former stock, so often as you shall find any such omissions.

Remember with all your dubbing to mix bear's hair and hog's wool, which are stiff, and not apt to imbibe the water, as the fine furs and most other kinds of dubbing do; also that the martern's fur should be the best yellow: when the angler is furnished with these materials, he may make any sort of artificial flies to represent those which he shall perceive Trout or other fish, to rise at: observe, that usually the smallest flies are the best, also that the light fly generally makes the most

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sport in a dark day, and the darkest and least fly in a bright day; but particularly observe to make your flies lighter or sadder according to the weather, or your fancy.

In making artificial dub-flies, imitate the belly of the fly, for that the fish take most notice of, as being more in their sight, and let the wings of the fly always be of an equal length, or it will not swim right and true. When you try how to fit the colour of the fly, wet the dubbing, lest you be mistaken; for though when dry it exactly suits the colour of the fly, yet the water alters most colours. Always make your dub-flies on a sun-shiny day; and to know the exact colour of your dubbing, hold it betwixt your eye and the sun.

Let not the tail of your dub-fly descend to the bend of the hook, and never into the bend itself, as some practise. When Trout often shew themselves at your fly, and do not take it, be assured that either the day or water is improper for fly angling; or which is far more probable, that your fly is not of the right colour and shape they then covet.

Flies made of the skins of bears, hogs, squirrels, camels, seals, dogs, foxes, badgers, otters, ferrets, cows, calves, &c. are more natural, lively, and keep their colour better in the water than flies made of crewels, and worsted stuffs, unless you mingle hairs therewith.

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The feather got from the quill of a shepstare, or starling's wing, is the best feather generally to use for dub-flies' wings; next are the feathers got from the wings of throstles, fieldfares, and blackbirds; also those from the back of the wild mallard, woodcock's wings, and from the hen pheasant, the softest part of the wing feather.

THE BEST METHODS OF COLOURING GUT AND HAIR.

For a brown.—Take some alum pounded, and boil it till dissolved, then add a pound of walnut-tree bark from the branches when the sap is up, or the buds, or green nuts; boil it an hour, and let it stand after skimming about ten minutes; then put in the gut, or hair, for about a minute, stirring it round, or till you like the colour: if you let it continue there too long, it will become dark and make the hair, or gut, rotten: I think the lighter it is tinged with this colour the better. You may also make it brownish by steeping it in salt and ale.

For a pale watery green.—Take a pint of strong ale, half a pound of soot, a small quantity of the juice of walnut leaves, with the like quantity of alum, put these into a pipkin and boil them together about three quarters of an hour; having so done, take it off the fire, and when nearly cold put in your gut or hair. *Or thus.*—Take two quarts

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of alum water, somewhat more than a handful of marigold flowers, boil them till a yellow scum rises; then take half a pound of green copperas, with as much verdigrease, and beat them together to a fine powder; put these with the gut, or hair, into the alum water, and let it lay three hours, or more, then take it out and let it dry.

For a bluish water colour.—Proceed as in the first receipt, only add logwood instead of the walnut, being careful not to colour it too much.

Another, and the best.—Take about four inches square of green baize cloth, a quarter of a pound of alum, boil them in three pints of soft water half an hour slowly, let it stand till near cold; then put your gut, or hair, in for an hour, and if it is too bright a green, take some ink and give it what shade you please between a green and bluish water colour.

CHAPTER XI.

OF SALMON FLIES.

THESE, for the spring season, must be made much larger, but not quite so gaudy as those used in summer, viz. let the hook be No. 1, the shank three inches or more in length, and small at the end, in order that the head of the fly may be made the neater: the feather for the wings,

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the darkish brown speckled, from the turkey's tail, and mixed with about twelve harls from the peacock's tail, dividing them that there may be six in each wing; the next feathers for wings to these large flies, are kite, buzzard, bittern, and heron's wings. The body of the first fly, called the tartan-fly, is of four, five, or more different colours, yellow light blue, green, dark red, orange, and purple, and as many more colours as the fancy may lead the angler to; for the fork, or tails, use the dark mottled feather from behind the wild mallard's wings, and a black and red cock's hackle over the body, for the legs and head.

How to make the Tartan-fly.—Take three lengths of strong silk-worm gut, properly twisted together, and having your silk well waxed (which must be of a light brown copper-colour) whip it round your gut six or seven times, about an inch, or more, from the end, which will prevent the shank of the hook from galling it; then take the hook, and put the end of the shank nearly to the top of the silk, that the gut may be on the inside, and begin to whip the hook to it, but desist when you have gone about half a dozen rounds; then having a proper quantity of feather ready for the wings, take it and lay it on the back of the shank (keeping it close together, and as even as you can) with the right side next the hook, and the but-end downwards, leaving the other end to be (when turned back again) full as long as the

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hook; then go on with your silk, and whip it round your feather, hook, and gut, six or eight times, or sufficient to make it fast, and with a pair of fine scissors cut away what remains of the but-end of the feather, taking care not to hurt the gut, which must be opened and twisted round the shank of the hook as you go on with the whipping, which is to be continued till it nearly comes opposite the point of the hook (but you must cut off the ends of the gut before they come quite so low down, if found too long;) next put on your strips of feather for the forks at the tail, with the fine points downwards, leaving them both exactly the same length, rather more than an inch long, and to stand open and make two laps round with the silk; then take the hackle (which must be ready prepared by stripping off the downy part at top, and cutting the feather across on each side near to the stem, about two or three tenths of an inch from the point, or by drawing the fibres back to prevent any of them from being bound down by the silk) and whip in the point of it two or three times round, leaving the largest end and gold hanging downwards, and the right uppermost, making one lap round between it and the fork, and one below all round the bare hook, tight and close to the fork, and cut off the superfluous ends of it, if any remain in sight; then wax your silk afresh, and having your stuff for the body, all the different colours separate, take first of the brightest yellow

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hog's wool, and twist as much of it on the silk as will make four or five laps round the hook, then as much more of dark red, of the same wool, twist on the silk and make five or six laps at the end of the yellow; then take as much of green and do it as before with five laps, and as much of light blue in the same way; as much dark orange done in the same way, and as much black as will bring you up to the wings, then fasten; take your needle and prick the body all round, and make it even and straight; then take your gold plaiting, or twist, that hangs at the bend of the hook, and work it gradually upwards till you come close up to the feather for the wings, and fasten; then take your hackle and work it up neatly between the lappings of gold, till you come close to the but of the wings, make all fast by two or three laps, and if any of the fibres remain, strip them off from the stem; and untwisting the silk to its proper place, make two or three laps to fasten the hackle, and cut away what remains of the stem; then take the feather for the wings, which has lain back all this time, and turn it down towards the tail of the fly, and holding it down tightish, with the rest between your finger and thumb, having all the part of the hackle out of the way, whip it two or three times round with the silk just over the feather very tight, and then two or three laps close above it; wax the silk again a little, and take a bit of copper-coloured mohair, and twist

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it thin on your silk, and begin at the end of the hook and lap it neatly four or five times up to the back of the wings; make two or three nooses close to the wings, and finish the operation with completing the head of the fly.

A SECOND FLY FOR SALMON.

Let the hook be the same size as the former, No. 1, only something shorter in the shank; the wings, the mottled feather from the turkey's tail, of a reddish cast; the mixture for the body, the light brown hair, or fur of bear, mixed with dark brown hog's wool, and gold coloured mohair, gold twist, a large black cock's hackle, a red one a little larger; and for the head, a bit of deep red hog's wool, or mohair.

How to make it.—Proceed in the same manner as before directed, until you come opposite the point of the hook, then lay in the ends of your hackles and twist them together, the red one undermost and the twist at top, and after whipping them there, make one lap below them; wax your silk afresh, twist on the dubbing for the body, and go on as in the former case next the twist, and rib it up to the wings, each lap about one eighth of an inch from the other, sloping; then take the black hackle, and work that upwards between the laps of the twist, rather lower than the middle of each space, and bring it twice round, close toge-

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ther at the top of the body; and bringing on the red hackle in the same manner, work it very neatly just above each lap of the black one, and finish it the same way, contriving to leave the twist just to show itself between the hackles, and then complete your fly as before directed.

A THIRD FLY, CALLED THE BLACK DOG IN SCOTLAND.

The hook No. 1, and shank near three inches long; the wings, the bluish feather from the heron's wing, intermixed with the spotted reddish ones of a turkey's tail; feathers for the body, lead coloured hog's soft wool from under the ear, small gold twist, a large black cock's hackle; the head, a little dark green mohair, and dark green silk.

How to make it.—Proceed in the same way as before, whipping the points of the hackle and gold before you come opposite the point of the hook; wax your silk afresh, twist on your dubbing for the body, and go on as in the former case, twisting it neatly round the silk; lap it smooth and even alike up to the wings; the body of this fly is all of a thickness from head to tail; take the twist and lap it up neatly about two tenths of an inch from each other, sloping up to the wings, make one noose; then take the hackle and work it upwards between each lap of the gold twist, till you come to the but of the wings; make the stem

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fast by two laps and a noose, cut away what remains of the stem; then take your needle and put your hackle in order, bring the wings forward, divide them with the gold twist that hangs at the shoulders, bringing it three or four times backwards and forwards between the wings, making it appear as much as possible about the head; wax your silk, and twist a little green mohair on the silk, and finish the head of your fly. Here you have the very best fly from the middle of April till about the last week in May, that can be fished with in any river in the united kingdom.

I have killed, on the river Tay, in one day, twelve Salmon, near Lord Bredalbane's, that weighed together eighteen stone, with this fly only. I have had most excellent sport on the Spay, Dee, and Don, and almost every Salmon-river in the north; and particularly on the river Aw, which runs into the Sound of Mull, in the west of Scotland, and one of the best Salmon-fisheries in the kingdom.

A FOURTH FLY.

For this fly, hook No. 2; the wings a speckled feather from a kite or buzzard's wing; for the body, light blue hog's wool, and a little lead-coloured mohair mixed, small gold twist, a large white cock's hackle, dyed a darkish blue, four strips of the copper-coloured feather of the mallard

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for the forks; the head a little of the same as the body, and your silk a dark blue colour.

How to make it.—Proceed the same way as before described, until you come opposite the point of the hook, whipping in the point of the hackle, and going a few laps, then take the twist and the strips for the forks, whip in the twist and forks; wax your silk, twist the dubbing even on the silk, leaving it fine next the hook, but gradually thickening upwards; make one lap below the fork, and one or two, as required, between that and the hackle, and work it gradually upwards till you come close to the feather for the wings; if any of the fur remains on the silk after you have thus formed the body, take it off, and wind your silk lightly a little upwards to be out of the way; then take the hackle by the end of the stem, and rib it neatly, lapping it thicker as you go on, till you bring it up to the wings; fasten the stem by two laps close to the wings, bring them forward to the bend of the hook, divide them and make two or three laps between the wings, and two laps behind the wings, to throw them forward, and to lay as flat as you can on the back of the hook; then take a little of the dubbing, the same as the body, twist it very thin on the silk, lap it three or four times at the back of the wings, making three nooses close to the wings, cut off the silk, take your needle and put your fly to rights, and your work is completed.

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A FIFTH FLY.

Take for this fly, hook No. 2, the length about two inches; for the wings, the mottledgrey feather from the turkey's tail; for the body, two strands of the copper-coloured feather from the peacock's tail, and two of green plover's or lapwing's topping, narrow silver plaiting, dark red silk, two forks an inch and a quarter long from the tail feather of a cock pheasant, and a dark tinged cock's hackle.

Proceed in the same way as before, whipping in the hackle a little before you come opposite the point of the hook, give two or three laps, take the plaiting and the strips for the forks, whip in the end of the feathers and plaiting together, cut away the end of the feather; take the peacock's harl and plover's feather, twist them and the silk together, then work it up neatly, leaving it fine next the hook, but gradually thickening upwards to the wings; having fastened as before, take the plaiting, make two laps with it close below the forks, that they may stand up and separate, and the points even, then give one lap above it, rib the plaiting neatly up to the wings, about the eighth of an inch between each lap, sloping, fasten the plaiting by a lap and one noose; next work up the hackle neatly between each lap of the plaiting, till you come to the wings, then give the hackle two turns, fasten the stem, and cut away what

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remains of it; take a peacock's hackle and finish the head of the fly, take your needle and put all in order; this is a very killing fly, but best in bright weather.

A SIXTH, CALLED THE GOLDEN FLY.

For this fly, a hook No. 3, the shank near two inches in length; the wings from the golden pheasant, the common pheasant, the parrot, the peacock's harl from the tail, the turkey's mottled feather from the tail, and two blue mottled feathers from the jay's wings, one placed on each side of the wings, with the mottled side downwards; it must be made very soft with your finger and thumb, not breaking the crust of the stem that it may lay more flat down to the other part of the wings; it must be lapped on, before you finish the head, by itself; all the other feathers must be mixed equally alike, and a middling large wing, but not longer than to the end of the hook; finish the head with a very little green mohair; the body, broad gold plaiting, with a strong, bold, red cock's hackle, ribbed with a piece of dark green silk; the body must be all of one thickness, about the size of a wheat straw, and made with any kind of thick, or round, silk; at the same time lapping in the hackle, silk, and gold plaiting, take the plaiting and make two laps on the hook at the tail of the fly, then lap the plaiting side by side till you come

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to the but of the wings, and fasten; take the green silk and lap it neatly up, about the eighth of an inch slanting from each other, to the wings as before, and fasten; then take the hackle, with both the sides on, and lap it neatly between every lap of the silk, and giving two laps under the wings fasten your hackle; then bring the wings forward, pressing them down to the tail of the fly, divide the wings into two equal parts; take your silk, well waxed, and, crossing it three or four times between them, make two or three laps behind the wings, in order to throw them forwards, and lay rather flat on the back of the fly than otherwise; for the head take the ruddy harl of a peacock's feather, and finish as before.

A SEVENTH, CALLED THE SILVER FLY.

Made as the golden fly.—For this fly, hook No. 3 or 4, the shank nearly the same length as the last, also the same wings; the body, silver plaiting, a bit of green silk to rib it with, and light blue cock's hackle; finish the head with the ruddy of peacock, as before mentioned. They are both to be used from the middle of June till the latter end of August, when the waters are low and fine; after that time you must return to your spring flies: yet, if the weather and waters con-

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tinue fine, they will take the last four flies till the middle of September.

The same sort of flies are used for Salmon-trout, and other fish of the Salmon kind, (at times) only smaller hooks, No. 4, 5, and 6; though they will often take very small Trout-flies, with which I have killed dozens of them in a day, on the Tweed and Whiteter, five miles above Berwick, which is one of the best small rivers in the North for this sort of fishing, and affords most excellent sport to the angler.

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CHAPTER XII.

DESCRIPTION OF THE

ARTIFICIAL FLIES,

Proper to angle with in the Driffield rivers, or in any Trout stream in the kingdom;

For every month in the year except January and December; when the fish are at spawn, and it is highly unfair to take them; nor indeed would the true sportsman attempt to angle for more than six months viz. from Lady-day to Michaelmas.

FEBRUARY.

No. 1. *THE palmer fly,* or *plain hackle.* The body is made of black hog's wool, dark red silk, dark red cock's hackle over all; hook No. 6, and made in this manner: In whipping on the hook, lap in the point of the hackle; when you have gone about half way wax your silk, and also wax it at the bottom, and twist on your dubbing very thin towards the tail, and gradually thicken it up to the body, within the tenth of an inch of the end, and fasten; put the body in order with your needle, then begin to lap the hac-

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kle, and as you go up lap it thicker, and take two turns close together, at the top make a lap, and two or three nooses, and cut the silk off; take your needle and put the hackle in order, with your finger and thumb of the right hand turn the hackle towards the tail of the fly, pressing it close down to the hook on all sides, which finishes the fly. It is in season all the month, and until the middle of March.

No. 2. *The gold-hackle.*—The body black spaniel's ear, dark yellow silk ribbed over with gold twist, and dark, black, red, or tinged cock's hackle over all; it is made in the same way as the palmer.

No. 3. *The black-wing-hackle.*—The wings, the light part of a feather from the stare or starling's wings, stripped off from the stem; the body, black water-dog's fur, and black hackle over it, and is made thus: take a good even silk-worm gut, a hook No. 6 or 7, and proceed as with the Salmon-flies, always observing to keep the feather close together, even and level at the points, laying it on (as before) with the wrong side uppermost; when you come to use the fur for the body, lay it on very thin and neat, and work the hackle, which must be suited in size, neatly over it till it comes up to the wings, then bring it twice round, but if there be too much strip it off; whip the stem fast, and cutting away the end that remains, take your needle and divide the feather for the wings

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into two parts, as equal as possible, and bring that part nearest you by turning it downwards, and holding it a little tight and smooth, give it three or four laps just over the feather, as near the top of it as you can, so that the silk may not slip off, keeping all the points of the hackle downwards out of the way; then take the other part, bringing it down in the same manner, and holding all between your finger and thumb, taking care that no part of the wings get down too low on the sides; whip them both over together the same as at first, very tight, give two laps above them, and fasten by noosing your silk two or three times, which finishes the head of the fly; after this is done, take your needle and put the hackle, &c. in order, with the wings sloping towards the tail: this way of parting the wings makes them look very natural: those that are made to stand upright, or nearly so, affright instead of enticing the fish, by the unnatural break in the water when moved; therefore the end fly ought to be fished with two inches under the water.

No. 4. *The dark brown fly.*—With dubbing of the brown hair of the flank of a brindled calf, collected in the spring; a small tinged hackle, lapped two or three times under the wings with dark red silk; the wings from the light part of a starling's wing. This is an excellent fly for March, April, and part of May, with hook No. 7.

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MARCH.

In this month use all the same flies as in February, but made less.

No. 1. *The whirling-dun*—made of the bottom fur of a squirrel's tail, and mixed with a little light blue hog's wool, or mohair, lapped on with dusty yellow silk; the wings of starling's feather.

No. 2. *The early bright brown*—made of the down of a dark red spaniel's ear, and a very small tinged hackle, lapped two or three times under the wings; you may fork this fly lapped on with copper-coloured silk; the wings, the light mottled feather of the pheasant hen's wing, the hook No. 7; a good fly all the month, and until the middle of April.

No. 3. *The little bright brown*—taken from the middle of the month to the middle of April; made of a light brown dubbing from the spaniel's ear, and mixed with yellow mohair, lapped with yellow silk, and two forks at his tail; the wings from the light feather of a jay's wing; the hook No. 9.

No. 4. *The whitest dun*—made of the roots of camel's hair, lapped with ash coloured silk, and a light grey pheasant hen's feather; the hook No. 9. In the forenoon it is taken from ten till one o'clock.

No. 5. *The later bright brown*—taken from the middle of March till the latter end of April, and made with dubbing of bright copper-coloured mo-

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hair, lapped with red silk and a tinge hackle all over the body, and a woodcock's wing feather, or brown hen's wing; the wings very little longer than the body, and a hook No. 7. It is one of the best flies we have.

APRIL.

The same hackles and flies that are used in March, are taken in April also, with this difference only, that all the browns be lapped with copper-coloured silk, and the duns with yellow silk. I shall add to these the flies peculiar to this month.

No. 1. *The small bright brown*—made of a spaniel's fur, from the point of the ear, which is much weather-beaten, with a yellow cast, and copper-coloured silk, and a light starling's wing; to be used in clear water: the hook No. 9.

No. 2. *The great whirling dun*—taken from about the tenth of this month to the first week in May, from eleven until two o'clock; and, at times, from thence to the first of July, in most rivers; and is commonly made of the down of a fox's cub, which is of an ash-colour at the roots, lapped with yellow silk; the wing, of the pale grey feather of a mallard, very little longer than the body.

An entire new method of making it.—Take a small even silk-worm gut, and half a yard of fine yellow silk well waxed, with hook No. 7 or 8, and proceed thus: take the hook between the finger

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and thumb of your left hand, take your silk and make two laps round the hook, within the tenth of an inch of the bend, wax the end of the gut and lay it on the inside of the shank; if you mean to fork it, take two fibres of the copper-coloured feather of the mallard, and lay them on the back of the hook, leaving them a proper length; then begin to lap the gut to the hook all the way up till you come within the tenth of an inch of the end of the shank; wax your silk, and having the feather for the wings ready, taking care the points are even, lay them on the back of the hook, keeping them close together and even with the right side next the nook, and the but-ends downwards, leaving the others (when turned back again) to come near the bend of the hook; take your needle and divide the wings, and with your silk, bringing it two or three times backwards and forwards between them, make one noose behind the wing; wax your silk, bring the wings forward and press them down close to the back of the hook, with the finger and thumb of the right hand, taking fast hold of them with the left finger and thumb; then take the silk, and what remains of the shank, which should be no more than about the twelfth of an inch, make two or three laps, till all the end be taken up; turn the silk back to the wings, and make two nooses close to the back of them, which will throw the wings quite forwards to the bend, and make them stand in their

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proper places; having the dubbing ready for the body, twirl it thin and neatly on the silk, but remember that it is to be thicker on the silk for the first three or four turns under the wigs, in order to thicken the shoulder of the fly; then let the silk, &c. be thinly covered with the dubbing, and lap it neatly down to the tail of the fly, side by side; make a lap round the tail, and strip off what remains on the silk of the dubbing wax your silk, and make two or three neat nooses at the tail, and then cut off the silk; take your needle and pick out as much of the dubbing as will cover the tail of the fly with your needle put the body into proper form all the way up to the wings, leaving part of the dubbing for feet, but those that do not stand in their place on the body, or feet, take them away with the tweezers. Here you will have finished one of the neatest dubb-flies that can be made with hands.

When I make winged-hackles, palmers, and dubb-flies, I begin in the same manner as with this fly.

No. 8. *The grouse hackle.*—This has no wings; the mixture for the body is dark olive mohair, and a fine gold coloured hog's wool, well mixed, and copper-coloured silk of fine mottled grouse feather, of a reddish brown, from the neck of the cock; the hook No. 7.

How to make this fly.—Take a small even-silkworm gut, and half a yard of silk, well waxed,

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with the hook between the finger and thumb of the left hand; take your silk and make two laps round the hook, within the tenth of an inch of the bend, wax the end of the gut and lay it on the inside of the shank; then begin to lap the gut to the hook all the way, till you come within the twelfth of an inch of the end of the shank, make one noose; then take the hackle and strip off the downy part from the stem, and lay the back of the stem on the back of the hook, make two or three laps round the hook, silk, and feather, till you have nearly covered all the shank, only leaving as much as to make two turns round the hook and gut, till the hook is nearly covered with the lapping: bring the silk back to the inside of the stem, make one noose and cut away the end of the stem; take a little of the dubbing and twirl it thin and even on the silk, and lap it neatly side by side till you come near the middle of the fly; strip off the dubbing, and fasten there with one noose; wax the silk, and leave it hanging till you bring down the point of the hackle to that place; now take the hackle by the point, and bring both sides of the feather to the back of the stem, taking them several times through your lips, and making them wet, then they will stand together at the back, or side of the stem next you; then take the point of the hackle between the finger and thumb of the right hand, work the hackle neatly down till you come where the silk is hanging, then bring

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the hackle round close over the end of the dubbing, keeping it very tight, with the silk make two laps and a noose, then cut away what is left of the point of the hackle; wax the silk and take a small quantity of the same dubbing and twirl it round the silk, very thin towards the tail, make one lap at the end of the tail and strip off what remains on the silk of the dubbing; wax your silk, make two nooses as neatly as you can at the tail of the fly; take your needle and pick out a little of the dubbing, which will cover the finishing of the fly; now with the needle put the body and hackle in order, and leaving the body towards the tail of the fly, so that you see the rows, or ribs, of silk through the dubbing, bring forward the hackle between the finger and thumb of the right hand towards the tail of the fly, pressing the hackle close down to the hook on all sides; here the hackle is finished.

If you wish to hackle all the length of the body, and have it ribbed with gold or silver, you must proceed as before-mentioned with the grouse-hackle, only remember when you fasten the stem of the hackle on the back of the hook, fasten the gold or silver twist at the same time; in making the body, be sure to make it rather thicker at the shoulder than in any other part of it; take the gold twist and lap it sloping and neatly, four or five times round the body till you come to the end of the tail, and fasten with one noose; then take the hackle

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by the pint, with the finger and thumb of the right hand, and make two turns with the hackle at the very top of the hook, close to each other; then lapthe hackle neatly down between every lap of the gold, till you come to the tail of the fly, where you will find the end of the silk, and bring the point of the hackle tight round the hook at the tail; make a lap, and two or three nooses, and with your finger and thumb press down the hackle all round the hook, and with your needle put the hackle to rights, and the fly is finished.

When the fly-maker gets into this method, it being the quickest easiest, and neatest way of making Trout-flies, he will never attempt to make them by any other.

No. 4. *The brown partridge.*—The wings are of a feather from a partridge's tail (not the red;) the body a sable fur, and gold-coloured hog's wool, well mixed; in making it proceed in the same way as with the great whirling dun; the hook No. 7.

No. 5. *The sooty dun hackle*—has no wings; the body, a little lead-coloured mohair, ash-coloured silk, with a sooty dun cock's hackle, all the length of the body: it is made by fastening the stem of the hackle at top, and proceed as with the gold hackle; make the body very thin all the way down to the tail, and the hackle suited to the size of your hook: what remains to be done has been before explained; the hook No. 7. It is a good

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fly in the hot months, in large rivers and rapid streams; this fly may may be fished with either as the end-fly or dropper.

MAY.

In the month of May, all the same hackles and flies may be used as in March and April, the hackles lighter, and the flies rather smaller. I shall add a few of the very best flies for this month, especially the dun-cut, green-drake, grey-drake, and stone-fly.

No. 1. *The dun cut.*—The dubbing of bear's hair, with a little blue and yellow mohair intermixed, lapped on with yellow silk; a dun wing from the kite's wing feather, and two horns, or forks, from a foulmart's tail, and made the same way as the great whirling dun. It is a very killing fly in every river, rapid stream, and shallow water.

No. 2. *The green drake*—which comes in about the twenty-fifth day of May, and is taken till about the twenty-first of June, in all rivers, and almost in every hour of the day. The wings, the grey spotted feather of a mallard, dyed yellow; the body, a little fine wool from the ram's testicles, which is of a beautiful dusty yellow, and ribbed with copper-coloured silk, with a dark bittern's hackle for legs, and two hairs from the fitchat's tail for the tail, or forks, and a bit of the brown peacock's harl from the tail feather for the head.

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This is a large fly, and should be made on a hook No. 5, or large No. 6; there requires no further instructions for making it, than what has before been given.

No. 3. *The grey drake.*—The wings, the grey mottled part of a mallard, mixed with that of a jay or widgeon; the body, light camel's hair, a little light sky-blue hog's wool, well mixed, ash-coloured silk, a small bluish grizzled cock's hackle; the forks, three fangs from the foulmart's tail. In making this fly, let the three hairs for the forks be an inch and a quarter long at the least, and stand open, and a bit of peacock's feather at the tail; and is made in the manner as described before.

No. 4. *The yellow hackle.*—For the hackle, the mottled feather from the mallard's breast, dyed yellow; the body the same as the green-drake, and ribbed (the same as that fly) with copper-coloured silk, and two forks of the fitchat's tail, about an inch long; a bit of the peacock's harl at the head. It is made in the same way as the grouse-hackle, but you must not bring the hackle quite so low down on the body. This is the very best fly all the drake-season. These three flies are end flies, and fished with singly; the hook No. 6.

No. 5. *The stone-fly.*—Made of bear's dun hair, with brown and yellow camlet, well mixed, but so placed, that the fly may be more brown towards

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the wings, and yellow towards the tail; you must place a black cock's hackle on the top of the hook, in the arming, or whipping, so as to be turned up when you wrap on your dubbing, and to stand almost upright: it must be ribbed with copper and yellow-coloured silk, twisted together and lapped six times round the body, sloping towards the tail; the wings just as long as the body, and made from a kite or woodcock's wing, the mallard's feather being too stiff, and not so near to the colour of the fly, nor lying so flat to its body. It is a good killer, and made as before described. Hook No. 6. An end-fly.

No. 6. *The black silver hackle.*—Made of the whirl of an ostrich's feather, and lapped round five times, sloping, with silver twist, and a black cock's hackle over all. A good fly the latter end of May, and all June; the hook No. 8. A dropper.

No. 7. *The woodcock-fly.*—Made of brown spaniel's ear, and a little of the squirrel's fur, well mixed, with two whisks of the mallard's copper-coloured feather from behind the wing for forks; and a small tinged hackle, with one side taken off, and lapped neatly sloping to the tail, and fasten as observed before; and with your needle put the body and hackle in order; the hook No. 8. or 9. Taken from the twentieth of this month, to the latter end of August, when there is any wind stirring, and the best fly we have.

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JUNE.

No. 1. *The grizzle-hackle.*—This fly follows the green and grey ones, and is a good fly during its season; it has no wings; the body, a feather from the pheasant's tail, of a dark reddish brown, red or copper-coloured silk, and a dark grizzled cock's hackle: it is made in the same way as the grouse-hackle; the hook No. 8. A dropper.

No. 2. *The golden sooty dun.*—The wings, starling's feather; the body, dark brown wool of a black lamb weather-beaten, resembling soot, and mixed with a little bright yellow martern's fur, and no hackle. It is made the same way as the brown-partridge: hook No. 9; and in season from the beginning of June to the latter end of September.

No. 3. *The light blue fox.*—The wings are the light feather from a starling's wing; the body, fox's blue fur, a little light camel's hair, and light straw-coloured mohair, well mixed; the fork at the tail is two hairs that grow on a monkey's skin, which is of a fine ash-colour; proceed as with the great whirling dun, and finish the same. In some rivers it is in season the last week in April, and in others in May; however it is a good fly, and taken all the summer on every river, at times.

No. 4. *The purple-hackle.*—Made with spaniel's fur, and a little purple mohair, mixed and twirl-

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ed on dark red silk, with a blood red cock's hackle over all; the hook No. 8.

No. 5. *The owl-fly.*—Taken about the middle of the month till the latter end of July, late in the evening. The dubbing must be made of a very light yellow, or almost white mohair, a very light yellow silk, a small brown head of the peacock's harl, and the wings of the white grey feather of the mallard, and must be very little longer than the body; the hook No. 7. With this fly I have had good sport, in all rivers that I have fished, in an evening till about ten o'clock.

No. 6. *The ant-fly.*—The wings, a feather of the starling's wing; the body, mohair of amber-colour, mixed with a little black spaniel's fur, and small brown silk, black red tinged cock's hackle twice round the wings. In making it, let the body be large at the tail and small towards the wings, and endeavour to form as natural a resemblance of the ant as possible, and finish as in former cases; the hook No. 11.

No. 7. *The green grasshopper.*—The body of green and yellow mohair, well mixed, and the body ribbed over with fine green silk and a green peacock's harl twisted together, and a light red cock's hackle over all; the hook No. 6.

No. 8. *The dun-grasshopper.*—The body slenderly made, of a little dun bear's hair, and a little dark dun mohair, and dun smoky hackle over all.

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A good fly in a dark windy day. The hook No. 5 or 6.

JULY.

The dub-flies for this month are,

No. 1. *The badger-fly.*—The body of badger's skin, from the skinners' pits twisted on some small red silk, with a dark red head, and a sad grey wing, from the pheasant hen's wing feather. This is a good fly, and used in March, April, and May: the hook No. 9 or 10.

No. 2. *The orange-fly.*—The dubbing of dark orange-coloured mohair, and small gold twist, with a small orange-coloured hackle twice under the wing, and a black wing from a crow's wing feather; it may be varied with a rail's feather. A good fly in the afternoon.

No. 3. *The wasp-fly.*—Made of dark brown dubbing from the bear, and a black rabbit's fur, a little yellow mohair, well mixed, and ribbed over with yellow silk; the wings of the mallard's grey feather; the hook No. 7 or 8.

No. 4. *The shell-fly.*—With dubbing of yellow fine hog's wool, or mohair, mixed with the dark fur of a hare's ear; lead-coloured silk, and starling's wing; the hook No. 9 or 10.

No. 5. *The little dun.*—The body made of white mohair, twirled on ash-coloured silk; the wings of a jay's light blue wing feather; the dubbing raised

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under the wings with your needle; the hook No. 9 or 10. A good fly in an evening before the moths come.

Though I by no means approve of night-fishing with the moths, yet, as many sportsmen are so passionately fond of angling as to be induced to pursue their pastime at all events, and are often more successful than in the day-time, I will here give them a description of the best flies for the purpose.

No. 1. *The mealy white moth*—with large broad wings, just the length of the body, made of the soft mealy feather of a white owl: the body, the soft white fur of a hare, or a rabbit, with a soft white hackle: the body as thick as a very large straw, till you come near the wings, there lap two or three times, take the hackle by the point and lap it two or three times pretty close under the wings; afterwards thinly down to the tail, there make the point fast by noosing two or three times, as observed before in other places; the hook should be No. 4, or 5 at the least.

No. 2. *The mealy cream moth.*—The wings are the feathers of a yellow owl, of a deep cream colour; the body made of the fur of a white weasel's tail, lapped on with straw-coloured silk, and a bit of brown peacock's harl for the head, and a yellow hackle; it is made on the same sized hook, and finished, and fished with, the same way as

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the former. You may vary the head with silver or gold, which ever best suits your purpose.

No. 3. *The mealy brown.*—The wings are made of the mottled brown feather of an owl; the body, the fur of a weasel's tail, a little yellow martern's fur, and very little brown spaniel's fur from the ear, well mixed, and a bittern's hackle lapped four or five times under the wings, and with your scissors cut the hackle so as to be left half an inch long for the legs; and a brown head, or silver twist instead, as the last, and finished in the same way. They are great killers in warm gloomy nights, after hot days; and when you fish this way, you should fish with no more than six or seven yards. You may hear the fish rise as in the day time, and feel them when they take.

AUGUST.

In addition to the flies that are used in July, prepare as follows:

No. 1. *The fern-fly.*—The dubbing of the fur of a hare or rabbit's neck, that is the colour of withered fern, with orange silk; a dark grey wing of a mallard's feather; the hook No. 9.

No. 2. *The harry long legs.*—The body, long and slender, made of bear's dun, and blue mohair, well mixed, with a smoky brown hackle feather over all, and lapped with brown silk; the hook No. 5 or 6. N. B. All the same browns and duns

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are taken this month that were fished with the latter end of April and May.

SEPTEMBER.

The same flies are taken this month that were in April.

OCTOBER.

The same as were taken in March.

NOVEMBER.

The same as were taken in February.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FLY-FISHING.

Let your line be about half as long again as the rod, and holding that in one hand and the line, near the fly, in the other, give your rod a motion from right to left; and as you move the rod backwards to throw out the line, let it go out of your left hand; at the same time try several throws at this length, and having well marked your object on the opposite side of the water, and made several throws, let out a yard or two more line, and try that till you throw within four or five inches every time, if the wind be any way in your favour; still using more and more line, till you can manage any length required, from ten to twelve yards,

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which is quite sufficient for the young angler to practise with. And observe, that in raising your line in order to throw it in again, you should bring your rod round your head, and not directly backwards; nor must you return the line too soon, nor till it has gone its full length behind you, or you will certainly whip off your end fly. There is great art in making your line fall on the water, and showing the fly well to the fish; which must be done without any part of the line falling into the water, except your flies and cast-line: to prevent this great impediment, when you make your throw, or cast, to bring your rod round from right to left, and the line at its full extent, bring the point, or top, of your rod in a direct line with your eye to the place you wish to throw it to, minding when your rod comes between the place and your eye, to stiffen the rest of your hand, which will prevent the top coming too near the water; and the spring of the top backwards will raise the middle of your long line, and throw your flies and cast-line within four or five inches to where you wish to have it on the water, in a very natural way, and no part of your wheel-line will touch the water: when once an angler gets this method of throwing, he will be able to throw with a sixteen feet rod, from eighteen yards to two or three and twenty neatly; and also will be enabled to throw ten or twelve yards in the wind's eye to the opposite bank, which will enable him

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to kill more Trout than any other angler, except he manages his rod and line in the same way; but this can only be attained by practice: for this reason, when he throws his flies to the opposite side, the wind and stream will bring the flies more naturally down and cross-ways on the stream, than throwing downwards: and if the angler will but observe when a Trout or Salmon is hooked from the opposite bank, that he is always well hooked and killed; and most fish that take the fly a little across and against the stream, are never well hooked, and seldom killed; although at times they will give some play and get loose at the last, except you have a landing-net with a long handle, to reach a good way. Always observe when you hook a fish, if he goes to the bottom and never shows himself at the top till you have almost killed him, you may be assured he is well hooked, and with care he is your own; but if you hook a fish and it springs out of the water often, he is but slightly hooked, or the point of it is against a bone, which will make him bounce out of the water several times, and by so doing, will frequently disengage himself from the hook.

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CHAPTER XIII.

OF WORMS.

THE ash-grub—is a milk-white worm, with a red head, and may be had at any time from Michaelmas till June: it is to be found under the bark of an oak, ash, alder, or birch, if they lay a year after they have been cut down; you may likewise find them in the bodies of rotten alders, if you break them with an axe; as also under the bark of a decayed stump of a tree: it is a good bait for a Grayling, Chub, Roach, and Dace.—The brandling, gilt-tail, and red worm are all to be found in old dunghills, or the rotten earth near them; but the best are found in tanners' yards, under the heaps of bark which they throw out after they have done with it. The brandling is most readily met with in hogs' dung, horses' dung, and rotten earth, and also in old thatch and dung. These are good baits for Trout, Grayling, Salmon-smelts, Gudgeons, Pearch, Tench, and Bream, or any fish that takes a worm.

The clap-bait—is found under cow's dung, and is like a gentle, but larger. You must seek for it only on such land as is light and sandy; it is much of the same nature with the earth-bob, and and may be kept in wet moss for two or three

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days. It is an excellent bait for a Trout, and every other fish will take it.

The cod-bait, cadis-worm, and *straw-worm*—are only different names for the same bait: they are found in pits, ponds, brooks, and ditches, and are covered with husks of sticks, straws, or rushes: they are very good baits for Trout, Grayling, Carp, Tench, Bream, Chub, Roach, Dace, Salmon-smelts, and Bleak. The green sort are found in March, the yellow in May, and a third sort in August; those covered with rushes are always green, and those with stones usually yellow, all the season.

The earth-bob, or white grub—is a worm with a red head, as large as two maggots, and is soft, and full of whitish guts; it is found in a light sandy soil, and may be gathered after the plough, when the land is first broke up from grazing: you may know in what ground to find them by the crows, as they will follow the plough very close where those animals are to be met with. This is chiefly a winter-bait from the beginning of November till the middle of April, and is proper for Chub, Roach, Dace, Bream, Tench, Carp, Trout, and Salmon-smelts. They are to be kept in a vessel closely stopped, with a sufficient quantity of the earth they were bred in, and they will be ready for use all the winter.

The flag-worm, or *dock-worm*—is found in the roots of flags that grow on the brink of an old

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pond; when you have pulled up the roots, you will find among the fibres reddish, or yellow cases, these you must open with a pin, and you will find a small worm, longer and more slender than a gentle, with a red head, palish body, and rows of feet all down the belly. This is an exceeding good bait for Grayling, Tench, Bream, Carp, Roach, and Dace.

The lob-worm, dew-worm, garden-worm, &c.—are found in gardens, pasture-lands, &c. late in a summer's evening, with a lantern and candle: they are also to be dug up in fields, and other places, by the sides of ditches and drains: the best sort are those free from knots, a red head, a streak down the back, and a broad tail. To scour and preserve them for use, take some moss, the best is that which grows on heaths, being soft and white, and when gathered will be clear and free from dirt at the roots; dip it into clean water, wring it nearly dry, and put half of it into an earthen pot, the worms and the other part of the moss at top, cover it close that they may not get out, and keep it in a cool place in summer, and in a warm one in winter, so as to prevent the cold weather, or frost from killing them; the moss must be changed every third day in summer, and once in six days in winter; in a week's time your worms will be fit for use; and from these supply your worm-bag when you require this kind of worm.

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and what you have not used, upon your return home, put them into the pot again.

The marsh-worm—is to be found in marshy ground on the banks of rivers; is of a bluish colour, and a good bait for Salmon-smelts, Gudgeons, Grayling, Trout, and Pearch.

The tag-tail—is of a pale flesh colour, with a yellow tag on his tail, almost half an inch long, and found in marl-land, or meadows, after a shower of rain; and a good bait for Trout, after the water is coloured with rain.

CHAPTER XIV.

RULES FOR FISHING,

AND

OTHER OBSERVATIONS.

WHEN the nights prove dark, cloudy, or windy, and the moon shines little, or not at all, the next day there will be but poor sport, except with small fish; as Trout, and great fish, then range about in search of prey. In small, clear, and shallow brooks, where the mills stand and keep up the water, you will seldom catch fish; as they, es-

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pecially Trout, dare not then come out of their holds, by reason of the shallowness of the water, which then brings no aliment with it. Observe that when you angle in a clear water either for Trout, Grayling, or Salmon-smelts, if you have so much dexterity as to do it with a single hair for two links next your hook, you will certainly catch three Trout for one against any that angle with gut next the hook; and though you may now and then lose a great fish by his breaking your line, yet if you had not been so small tackled, ten to one he had ever bit, and a number of bites will compensate the loss; you may fish with less hazard at the bottom than at the top with fine tackle, because a Trout shoots at the fly with a rapid agility at your bait, and from you when he hath taken it, with his head generally downwards; but at the ground, or mid-water, he takes the bait gently, and glides away more leisurely.

Fish take all sorts of baits more eagerly and freely, and with the least suspicion, when you present them in such order and manner as nature affords, and they are used to take them.

Some are peculiar to certain countries and rivers, of which every angler may, in his own place, make proper observations. Several of the foregoing baits will be taken in some particular rivers and not in others; and the same baits are taken earlier in some rivers, and sooner or later in some years than others. Whenever you find large shoals

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of fish, except about their spawning time, they will bite if you use proper baits; fish with a fine line in a strong current, and you will require a less quantity of lead. If you angle for small fish at the ground, use a line of the roundest and smallest silk-worm gut, with a float made of a goose's quill; while you are angling, do not give them more baiting than will keep them together; and if you intend to angle in the morning, bait well the evening before; as also in the morning if you intend to angle in the evening.

The best hours in general esteemed to angle on a clear day, and in clear water, from about the tenth of April until the end of August, are from sun-rise till half past ten o'clock, and from three until sun-set: but if the day be dark, cloudy, gloomy, or lowering, especially if at such a time also a gentle breeze blows from any quarter even from the east, you will not fail of catching fish in any hour of the day; but in March, the beginning of April, September, and all the winter months, you may angle all the day, from about an hour after sun-rise until about sun-set, either in muddy or clear water; and you may even angle all the day in muddy water, from the middle of April until the end of August, but early in the morning and late in the evening are the best times.

When floods have carried away all the filth that the rain had washed from the higher grounds into

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the river, so that the river keepeth its usual bounds, and of a chesnut brown or ale colour, it is then good to angle at ground, at the conflux of rivers; and when it ebbs and flows, fish sometimes bite very well, but in the ebb most usually, and also at pointing of a tide. Fish rise best at the fly after a shower that has not mudded the water, yet has beat in the gnats and flies into the river; you may, in such a shower, observe them to rise much, if you can endure the rain. Great fish, Trout in particular, feed most in the night, especially if it be dark or windy, and they bite not the next day, unless it proves dark or windy, and then a little in the afternoon only: all fish bite keener and better (especially in the summer) in swift, rapid, stony, and gravelly rivers, than those that run gently in slime and mud.

In little brooks that fall into large rivers, where the tide comes up only in fresh waters, or waters a little brackish, if you begin at the mouth of such brooks, just as the tide comes in, and go up with the head of the tide, and return with the ebb, you may take many good Trout; and if the tide does not foul the water they will rise at the fly; or if you come immediately after a shower, that has raised the water, or just as any mill-water begins to come down, and so proceed with the course of the current, Trout will bite eagerly; because, expecting the water to bring down food with it, they come forth to seek it.

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When rains cause the rivers to rise, and keep them for some time above their ordinary height, Trout leave the largest rivers, and retire into such small brooks as are almost dry in hot summers, and in such brooks you should then angle for them: they generally quit the great rivers at Michaelmas, and go into small rivulets to spawn, and are frequently there destroyed by idle and disorderly poachers, with groping and tickling, or otherwise, which does more injury to the breed of fish, than all the summer's angling. In all sorts of angling be sure to keep out of the fish's sight, and as far off the river's bank as possible, unless you angle in a muddy water, and then you may approach nearer. Angle always, if you can, on the lee-shore; and observe, that fish lay or swim nearer the bottom, and in deeper water, in winter than in summer; they also get near the bottom in a cold day, and on the calm side of the water; and in the winter are caught best in the mid-time of the day, and in sun-shiny weather. When you angle for Pearch, Chub, Tench, Carp, Dace, Bream, Gudgeon, and Ruff, and have hooked one, and who afterwards makes his escape, you will not often have any great sport at that standing for one or two hours after such misfortune, because the fish is so frighted that he chases his companions out of the place; therefore, after some trial, it is best to remove, and angle at some other standing. In a clear water, when you use worms,

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bait with one worm only; in a muddy or discoloured water, bait with two at a time.

The colour of your line must be a dusky white, or grey colour, in water that is discoloured; your line, for two yards next the hook, ought to be of a sorrel brown, or chesnut, and the upper part of it white. Let your apparel not be of a light or shining colour, which will reflect upon the water and fright away the fish, but let it be of a dark brown, or dark bottle-green colour, not with metal buttons, and sit close to the body.

Fish are terrified with the least sight or motion, therefore by all means keep out of sight when you angle in a clear water, either by sheltering behind some bush, or tree, or by standing as far off the river's side as you possibly can; to effect this the better, a rod of eighteen feet long, at ground, and a rod of the same length and line at artificial fly, are absolutely necessary: neither ought you to move much on the banks next the water you angle in, especially for Trout, Chub, or Carp. When you angle at ground, in a clear water, or dibble with natural flies, angle up the river; but in muddy water, or dub-fly, angle down the river. When you have hooked a large fish, let him play and tire himself in the water; and have a special care to keep the rod bent, lest he run to the end of the line and break either hook or hold; haul him not too near the top of the water, for by flouncing he might break your line.

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Where any weeds, roots of trees, stones, wood, or other rubbish are, it is often good, but troublesome angling, for to such places fish resort for warmth and security. The same may be said of whirpools, which are like pits in rivers, and seldom unfurnished with good fish; likewise in weirs, weir-pools, mill-streams, piles, posts, and pillars of bridges, flood-gates, cataracts and falls of water, the conflux of rivers, the eddies betwixt two streams, the returns of a stream, and the sides of a stream, are good places generally to angle in. Keep the sun, or moon if you angle at night, before you, provided your eyes can endure it; at least be sure to have those planets on your side, for if they are on your back both yourself and rod, will, by the shadow, give more offence when looking towards the light than the contrary way. Let all baits and flies whatsoever, fall gently first into the water, before any other part of the line, except the cast-line, (and with as little of that as possible) and without any disturbance, plunging, or circling of the water, which very much scares and frightens the fish.

RULES AND CAUTIONS.

Never raise a large fish out of the water by taking the hair to which your hook is fastened, or indeed any part of the line, into your hands, but either put a landing net under him, or for want of that,

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even your hat: you may, in fly-fishing, lay hold of your line to draw a fish to you, but this must be done with caution. Your silk for whipping hooks, and other fine work, must be very small and strong, and waxed, and indeed any other kind of binding, with shoemaker's wax, which is the toughest and holds the best: inclose the knots and joints of your lines in a small pill of wax, pressed very close, and the superfluities pinched off; this will soon harden and prevent the knots from drawing; it is better to whip your knots with fine silk.—Whenever you begin fishing, wet the ends of the joints of your rod, which, as it makes them swell, will prevent their loosening; and if it should happen to rain, or otherwise to wet your rod so that you cannot pull the joints asunder, turn the ferrule a few times round in the flame of a candle, and they will easily separate. Before you fix the silk-worm gut, or hair, to your hook in order to make a fly, to prevent its drawing, be sure to singe the ends of it in the flame of a candle; do the same with India-weed to which at any time you whip a hook. Make flies in warm weather only, as in cold your waxed silk will not draw; moderate weather is the best.

THE WAY TO ALLURE FISH TO BITE WITH UNGUENTS, &c.

The best is gum-ivy, and put a good quantity

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of it in a small box made of oak; rub the inside of the box with this gum, and when you angle put five or six worms therein, letting them remain but a short time, for if long it will kill them; take them out and use them, putting more in their stead out of the worm-bag and moss, and continues so to do all the day, and you will have excellent sport. Gum-ivy is a tear that drops from the body of the larger ivy being wounded; it is of a yellowish colour, of a strong scent, and sharp taste.

To get the best gum-ivy, is at Michaelmas or spring, by driving several great nails into ivy stalks, and having worked them about till they become very loose let them remain, and gum will issue out of the holes; or you may slit several great ivy stalks, and visit them once a month, or oftener, to take what gum flows from the wounded parts. This gum is excellent for the angler's use perhaps nothing more so under the form of unguents. Take the oil of ivy-berries, made by expression, and put some in a box, to scent a few worms just before you use them.

Put a little camphor in the moss wherein are your worms the day you angle, and you will be sure of good diversion. There is one more receipt which I shall mention, and with which I have had great sport at all times: take a handful of houseleek, and half a handful of the inner green bark of the ivy, and press out the juice, and wet

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your moss therewith: nothing is better if your worms are well scoured, and kept for near three weeks.

These are most valuable secrets in worm-fishing.

I could have added various ways of night-angling, and of means and devices which have been imparted to me of insnaring fish in the day-time, but as I never made use of any of them, and willing to preserve the reputation of a fair sportman, which I trust I have hitherto inviolably maintained, I shall refrain from promulgating those arts, the practice of which ought to be discountenanced and zealously suppressed by every liberal angler; I shall therefore wave the subject, and have only to repeat an observation made in another part of this work, that no stream will be hurt by angling, provided fish are not taken under a proper size, which, for Trout, in the rivers about Driffield, should be a pound in weight: and shall here notice, that, with the fly, it is by far the most ingenious and delightful of all angling, and in every respect superior to the rest; the exercise it requires is gentle and pleasing; nor is the angler confined to any one part of the river, but moving from stream to stream, in all places, is very agreeably surprised at the manner in which the fish are allured.

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CHAPTER XV.

LAWS

AS TO

ANGLING, &c.

ANY person may make a fish-pond without licence; because it is a matter of profit, and for the increase of victuals. 2 Inst. 199.

Respecting the right and property of fish, it has been held, that where the lord of the manor has the soil on both sides of the river, it is good evidence that he has the right of fishing; but where the river ebbs and flows, and is an arm of the sea, there it is common to all; and he who claims a privilege to himself must prove it. In the Severn, the soil belongs to the owners of the land on each side; and the soil of the river Thames is in the king, &c. but the fishing is common to all. 1 Mod. 105. Burr. 2184.

He who is owner of the soil of a private river has "seperalis piscaria;" and he who has "libera piscaria" has a property in the fish, and may bring a possessory action for them; but "communis piscaria" is like the case of all other commons. 2 Salk. 637.

And by 3 Ed. I. c. 20. If any trespassers in

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ponds be thereof attainted at the suit of the party, great and large amends shall be awarded, according to the trespass; and they shall have three years imprisonment, and shall after make fine at the king's pleasure (if they have whereof) and then shall find good security that after they shall not commit the like trespass: and if they have not whereof to make fine, after three years imprisonment, they shall find like security; and if they cannot find like surety, they shall abjure the realm. If none sue within the year and a day, the king shall have suit.

Trespassers in ponds, are those who endeavour to take fish therein. 2 Inst. 200.

By 31 H. VIII. c. 2 s. 2. If any evil-disposed persons shall fish in the day-time, from six 'clock in the morning, till six in the evening, in any ponds, stews or moats, with nets, hooks, or bait, against the will of the owners, they shall, on conviction thereof, at the suit of the king, or the party aggrieved, suffer imprisonment for three months, and find security for their good abearing.

And by 5 Eliz. c. 21. Any person who shall unlawfully break, cut, or destroy any head or dam of a fish-pond, or wrongfully fish therein, with intent to take or kill fish, shall, on conviction, at the suit of the king, or of the party, at the assizes or sessions, be imprisoned three months, and pay treble damages; and after the expiration of the three months shall find sureties

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for his good abearing for seven years, or remain till he doth.

By 22 and 23 of C. II. c. 25. If any person shall use any net, angle, hair, noose, troll, or spear; or shall lay any weirs, pots, fish-hooks, or other engines; or shall take any fish by any means or device whatsoever, or be aiding thereunto, in any river, stew, pond, or moat, or other water, without the consent of the lord or owner of the water, and be thereof convicted by confession, or oath of one witness, before one justice, in one month after the offence; every such offender, in killing or taking fish, shall give to the party injured such recompense, and in such time, as the justice shall appoint, not exceeding treble damages: and shall also pay to the overseers for the use of the poor, such sum, not exceeding ten shillings, as the justice shall think meet, to be levied by distress; and for want of distress, to be committed to the house of correction for any time not exceeding one month, unless he enter into bond, with one surety, to the party injured, not exceeding ten pounds, never to offend again in like manner. S. 7.

And by the same statute, s. 8. the justice may cut, take, and destroy all such angles, spears, hairs, nooses, trolls, weirs, pots, fish-hooks, nets, or other engines, wherewith such offender shall be apprehended.

Any person who shall think himself aggrieved,

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may appeal to the next sessions, whose determination shall be final, if no title to any land, royalty, or fishery, be therein concerned. S. 9.

By 4 and 5 W. c. 23. No person shall have or keep any net, angle, leap, piche, or other engine for the taking of fish, other than the makers and sellers thereof, and other than the owner and occupier of a river or fishery; and except fishermen and their apprentices lawfully authorized in navigable rivers. And the owner or occupier of the river or fishery, and every other person by him appointed, may seize, detain, and keep to his own use, every net, angle, leap, piche, and other engine, which he shall find used or laid, or in the possession of any person fishing in any river or fishery, without the consent of the owner or occupier thereof. And any person, authorized by a justice's warrant, may in the day-time, search the houses, out-houses, and other places of any person hereby prohibited to have or keep the same, who shall be suspected to have in his custody, or possession, any net, angle, leap, piche, or other engine aforesaid, and seize and keep the same to his own use, or cut and destroy the same as things prohibited by this act to be kept by persons of their degree. S. 5 and 6.

By 5 G. III. c. 14. If any person shall enter into any park, or paddock, fenced in, and inclosed, or into any garden, orchard, or yard, adjoining or belonging to any dwelling-house, in or

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through which park, or paddock, garden, orchard, or yard, any stream of water shall run, or wherein shall be any river, stream, pond, pool, moat, stew, or other water, and by any means, or device whatsoever, shall steal, take, kill, or destroy, any fish, bred or kept therein, without the consent of the owner thereof, or shall be aiding therein, or shall receive or buy any such fish, knowing the same to be so stolen or taken as aforesaid, and shall be convicted thereof at the assizes, within six calendar months after the offence shall be committed, shall be transported for seven years.—And any offender, surrendering himself to a justice, or being apprehended, or in custody for such an offence, or on any other account, who shall make confession thereof, and a true discovery, on oath, of his accomplice or accomplices, so as such accomplice may be apprehended, and shall on trial give evidence so as to convict such accomplice, shall be discharged of the offence so by him confessed. S. 1, 2.

By 9 G. III. s. 3, 4. If any person shall take, kill, or destroy, or attempt to take, kill, or destroy, any fish in any river, or stream, pond, pool, or other water, (not in any park, or paddock, or in any garden, orchard, or yard, adjoining or belonging to any dwelling-house, but in any other inclosed ground, being private property) he shall, on conviction before one justice, on the oath of one witness, forfeit five pounds to

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the owner of the fishery of such river, pond, or other water: and such justice, on complaint upon oath, may issue his warrant to bring the person complained before him; and if he shall be convicted before such justice, or any other of the county or place, he shall immediately pay the said penalty of five pounds to such justice, for the use of the person as the same is hereby appointed to be paid unto; and, in default thereof, shall be committed by such justice to the house of correction for any time not exceeding six months, unless the forfeiture shall be sooner paid: or such owner of the fishery may, within six calendar months after the offence, bring an action for the penalty in any of the courts of record at Westminster.

But nothing in this act shall extend to subject any person to the penalties thereof, who shall take, kill, and carry away, any fish in any river or other water wherein such person shall have a right so to do. S. 5.

By 9 G. I. c. 22. Generally distinguished by the name of the Black Act, if any person being armed and disguised, shall unlawfully steal or take away fish out of any river or pond, or (whether armed and disguised or not) shall unlawfully and maliciously break down the head or mound of any fish-pond, whereby the fish shall be lost or destroyed, or shall rescue any person in custody for such offence, or procure any other to join with him

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therein, he shall be guilty of felony without benefit of clergy.

By 2 H. VI. c. 15. No person may fasten nets, &c. across rivers to destroy fish, and disturb the passage of vessels, on pain of five pounds.

By 33 G. II. No person shall take, or knowingly have in his possession, either in the water or on shore, or sell, or expose to sale, any spawn, fry, or brood of fish, or any unsizeable fish, or fish out of season, or any Smelt not five inches long, and any person may seize any such, together with baskets and package, and charge a constable or other peace-offices with the offender and with the goods, who shall carry them before a justice; and on conviction before such justice the same shall be forfeited and delivered to the prosecutor: and the offender shall also forfeit twenty shillings, to be levied by distress, by warrant of such justice; half to the prosecutor, and half to the poor where the offence was committed (and every inhabitant of such parish may, nevertheless, be a witness:) for want of sufficient distress, the offender to he committed to the house of correction, there to be kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding three months, unless the forfeiture be sooner paid.

Provided that such justice may mitigate the said penalty, so as not to remit above one half.

Persons aggrieved may appeal to the next sessions.

MARRIOT.

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PART II.

OF SHOOTING, COURSING,

&c. &c.

CHAPTER I.

THE first thing to be thought of in this manly exercise is the fowling-piece, the length of the cylinder, and diameter of the caliber; with the weight of the barrel, stock, and lock, when complete.

OF THE BARREL,

In my opinion, the barrels best calculated for general use, (such as I have employed the last fifty years, and which I have found to answer every purpose) are from thirty-four to thirty-nine inches; whether I consult the appearance of the piece, its lightness, or the ease with which it is managed, I believe that a barrel not exceeding the one or less than the other of these dimensions, is the most eligible: the caliber of thirty-six should

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be small five-eighths; the caliber of thirty nine should be full five-eighths; the weight of the barrel three pounds and a half, and when full mounted, it should weigh six pounds and a half, at the least.

OF THE STOCK, LOCK, &c.

Upon the other parts of a fowling-piece there is little required to be said, as they are varied according to the fancy of the workman, or the whim of the purchaser, without any advantage or detriment to the piece. The wood which is most commonly used for the stock, and which appears best for the purpose, is walnut; and the only choice in it is that the grain be even and close, and as free as possible from knots and burrs, which, though they may add to the beauty of the stock, seldom fail to take away its strength, unless they are confined entirely to the but part; as to the curvature, no particular degree can be assigned as a standard; different persons requiring different degrees, according to the length of their necks, and to the manner in which they hold their heads whilst taking aim; this therefore, as well as the length of but, depends partly upon the circumstances just mentioned, but chiefly upon the length of the arm, which can be determined with great accuracy by the gun-smith, from his observing the manner that the shooter presents his piece and takes his aim.

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With regard to the lock I have nothing material to offer; the genius and industry of the English workmen having already brought them to such a degree of elegance and perfection, that I have nothing further to hope for or require. The real improvements are not confined to any particular maker, and though the minutiæ peculiar to each, may determine the purchaser in his preference, no person need fear much disappointment in the essential qualities of a lock, provided he goes to a good price: it is of more consequence to the excellence of a lock, that the springs be proportioned to each other, than that they should be made very strong; a moderate degree of force is sufficient to produce the required effect, and whatever exceeds this, proves detrimental, by rendering the trigger difficult to draw, or throws the piece from the direction in which it was pointed. Some gunsmiths contend, that a barrel, in order to throw its shot close, ought to have its caliber narrower in the middle than at either the breech or muzzle; whilst others insist that the caliber ought to contract gradually from the breech to the muzzle: with respect to these circumstances I shall only observe, that both are admirably calculated to make the piece recoil much. Of all the contrivances which have been mentioned, not one appears to answer the end intended; the greater part of gunsmiths are sensible of this, and therefore very seldom practise them, unless to indulge

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the whim of their customers. As far as reason and experience are sufficient for enabling me to determine upon the matter, I would reject all the expedients that have hitherto been proposed, and give a decided preference to the barrels as they are usually made, namely, those whose caliber is very smooth and perfectly cylindrical throughout: barrels of this sort have long supported their credit amongst the best sportsmen. Would they only forbear to determine upon the merits or defects of their pieces, until they had given them a patient and impartial trial, by varying the quantity of powder and shot in different ways, I am inclined to think there would be fewer complaints made of the modern fowling-pieces. Within my knowledge several great sportsmen have hastily parted with their pieces, and thrown a censure upon the maker, which, after experience, proved to be undeserved. The chief source of this error appears to be overcharging, and it is by correcting this that the bad opinion so entertained of many pieces might be removed: every barrel, according to its caliber and weight, should have a suitable quantity of powder and the like of shot, which will be attended with greater certainty and effect than any others, and these must be determined by repeated trials. If the sportsman increases the quantity of shot above this, he lessens the force of the discharge, and at the same time increases the recoil; and if he increases the pow-

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der, that of the shot remaining the same, he also increases the recoil and disperses the shot much more than before. In every kind of fire-arms, large charges of powder are found to disperse the shot very much, whilst with smaller charges than are generally used it is thrown more even and close; if the object, therefore, the sportsman is about to shoot at is at too great a distance for the shot to take effect, and it may happen that he cannot approach nearer to it, he ought not to increase the quantity of powder with a view to the shot being thereby thrown farther, as by so doing the increase of the range will be very trifling, whilst the dispersion of the shot will be greatly increased; the only expedient, in this case, is to use shot of a larger size; the quantity of it and the powder being kept the same as has been found best to suit the piece.

I have at different times compared barrels of all the intermediate lengths between thirty-four and forty inches, of nearly the same caliber, viz. from five-eighths to five-eighths and a half, and these were fired from the shoulder, and over a rest quite firm, at an equal distance, and with equal weight of powder and the same of shot; to avoid every error, the quire of paper at which I fired was fixed against planks of wood; from these trials, frequently repeated, I found the shot pierced an equal number of sheets, whether it was fired

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from a barrel thirty-four, thirty-six, thirty-eight, or forty inches in length.

I have compared two barrels of nearly the same caliber, one thirty-nine inches and another fifty-two inches long, by repeatedly firing them in the same manner as the others, at different distances, from fifty, sixty, seventy, and eighty paces, the result of which was nearly the same: the barrel of thirty-nine inches drove its shot through as many sheets of paper as the barrel of fifty-two: the conclusion of all this is, that the difference of eight inches in the length of the barrel, which seems to me to be more than is ever insisted upon among sportsmen, produces no sensible difference in the range of the piece; and therefore every one may please himself in the length of his barrel, without either detriment or advantage to the range. The circumstance of a duck gun killing at a greater distance than fowling-pieces, is not owing to its length, but its greater weight and thickness, allowing the charge of powder to be doubled or trebled; which cannot be done in a fowling-piece though strongly reinforced; for a barrel of five feet and a half, such as that of a common duck gun, weighing six or seven pounds, the whole piece fourteen or sixteen pounds, may be fired with a very large charge without recoiling so much as to hurt the shooter, its weight being sufficient to resist the violent impulse occasioned by the increase of the powder: but in a fowling-piece of three

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feet three inches barrel, sufficiently strong to withstand such a charge, and when its weight does not exceed six pounds and a half, the recoil would be insupportable; besides they not only double or treble the powder in a duck gun, but they put in a much greater quantity of shot than is ever used in a fowling-piece. All such guns as are employed for wild-geese and wild-ducks, should be bent a little upwards about four inches from the muzzle, which makes them throw their shot farther than if they were perfectly straight. To obtain therefore from a piece of ordinary length, the same effects as from a duck gun, nothing more is necessary than to have the barrel sufficiently strong to admit of the charge being doubled as required, and the whole piece heavy enough to render the recoil supportable. I have already observed that an increase of powder, above the charge generally used, does not produce a proportionable increase of range in the shot; thus a double charge of powder will not throw the ball, or shot, to twice the distance the single charge does; this may be ascertained on a still sheet of water, three hundred yards long, or upon snow.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CHOICE OF GUNPOWDER, SHOT, WADDING, &c.

By far the most certain method of determining the quality, is by drying some of it very well, and

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then trying how many sheets of paper it will drive the shot through, at the distance of fifteen or twenty yards. In the trial, the shooter should be very careful to use the same sized shot in each experiment; the quantity of the shot and powder being regulated by exact weight, otherwise he cannot, even in this experiment, arrive at any certainty, in comparing the different strength of powders, or of the same powder at different times. Powder ought to be kept very dry, as every degree of moisture injures it: good gunpowder however does not readily imbibe moisture; and perhaps there is no greater proof of the bad quality of powder, than its growing damp quickly when exposed to the air; this readiness to become moist, depends on the saltpetre used in the composition not having been freed from the common salt it contained in its crude state, and which in consequence has a very strong attraction for watery particles: powder may acquire a small degree of dampness, and be freed from it again by drying, without much injury to its quality; but if the moisture is considerable, the saltpetre is dissolved, and the intimate mixture of the ingredients thereby entirely destroyed. Drying powder with too great a heat also injures it; for there is a degree of heat, which although not sufficient to fire the powder, will yet dissipate the sulphur and impair the composition by destroying the texture of the grains; the heat of the sun is perhaps the

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greatest it can with safety be exposed to, and if properly managed is sufficient for the purpose; when this cannot be had, the heat of a fire regulated to the same degree may be used; for this end a heated tin, or a pewter plate, is perhaps as good as any thing, because they retain so moderate a heat, that there can be little danger of spoiling the powder by producing the consequences before-mentioned. The sportsman should be very particular in the mode of keeping his powder; I would recommend him always to air it and his flask before he takes the field, and carry it in his breeches-pocket, in order to keep it from any kind of damp.

Flasks made of copper, or tin, are much better for keeping powder in, than those made of leather.

OF THE SHOT.

The choice of shot is highly worthy of the sportsman's care; it should be equally round and void of cavities, the patent milled shot is at this time preferred to all other sorts, and is in general use. It is extremely important for the success of the sportsman, that he should proportion the size of his shot, as well to the particular species of game he means to pursue, as to the season of killing it. In the first month of moor-game shooting, shot No. 1, should be used, till about the first of

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September, after that No. 2. No. 1. should also be used for partridge-shooting all the month of September, after that, No. 2. for the whole of October; after which time the birds get full feathered and strong, also hares get better covered with fur, therefore it will be necessary to use No. 3. all the season (except for snipes;) this size seems to be the best of any, it preserves a proper medium between shot too large, and that which is too small, and will kill a hare from the distance of thirty-five to forty-five paces, and partridges at nearly fifty, provided the powder be good. But if the sportsman proposes to shoot wild ducks, or hares, he had better use No. 4. or 5.; and in any case where large shot is required, No. 5. will be found better than any other, for its size is not so large as to prevent it from sufficiently garnishing, or being equally spread in the circle, and it will at the same time perform in effect all that larger sized shot can do, which garnishes but very little, if at all.

THE PROPORTIONS OF POWDER AND SHOT IN THE CHARGE.

To find the charge that gives the longest range in fowling-pieces of different dimensions, must be allowed to be a discovery of infinite importance to every sportsman. Every barrel has a particular load, not a measure estimated by any rules, to

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be drawn from a comparison made between the proportions of the caliber, and the length of the barrel, with which it will shoot much more at a certainty, and with more effect. It cannot be doubted but the sportsman will make some experiments with his own barrels in order to attain this end: it is certain, that by using small charges at the first, and increasing the quantity of powder by degrees, the range will increase to a certain point; after which, if the charge be augmented, it will progressively diminish, as in consequence of overloading with shot, the powder has not sufficient strength to throw it to its proper distance; for if the object fired at be distant, one half of the pellets composing the charge, by their too great quantity and weight, will strike against each other, and be flattened and fall by the way; and those that reach the mark will have small force, and produce but little or no effect; therefore to overload is but the strange fancy of some sportsmen, who imagine they cannot kill unless they put an ounce and a half, or more, of large shot into the piece; it is true that they destroy a quantity of game, but in some measure they are punished by the severe strokes they receive on the cheek, in consequence of the excessive recoil.

OF THE WADDING.

Most sportsmen pique themselves with the idea

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that card-paper and hat-wadding is much the best of any, and pretend it to be a great secret among them; however I can only say that having made use of card and hat wadding nearly fifty years ago, I differ from their opinion, as I have used all kinds of wadding. I never found any yet equal to fine tow chopped short to about half an inch, and rolled into round balls to fit the caliber, giving it four or five presses with the ram-rod lightly, which will mould the wadding of tow close to the barrel; and over the shot, soft brown paper, such as the battle powder is lapt in, and rubbed very soft with your hand, is the best wadding; it combines suppleness with consistence, and moulds itself to the barrel: it must also be observed, that such wadding never falls to the ground in less than ten or twelve yards from the muzzle of the piece, if properly placed on the powder and shot, and makes the piece shoot closer and much stronger than any other kind of wadding, except that made of the best velvet cork. A cork wadding I have found by repeated trials to be the best of any for increasing the range and closeness of shot.

I have made several experiments in regard to a cork wadding, which, if adapted to the caliber of the piece, produces greater effect than either hat or card-paper, in these respects, that by stopping the barrel more hermetically, it prevents the elastic fluid, produced by the explosion of the powder, from escaping between the partition of wad-

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ding and the charge, and preserves all its force to the mouth of the piece, thereby rendering the effect of the powder greater.

METHOD OF LOADING A FOWLING-PIECE.

Some attention is requisite thereto; the powder should only be slightly rammed down, for which purpose it is sufficient to press the ram-rod four or five times on the wadding, in order to mould it to the barrel. The usual practice is to ram down the wadding by main force, which is wrong, for by compressing the powder in this violent manner, some of the grains will be so bruised that the explosion will not be quick, and the shot will be spread wide: in pouring the charge of powder into the barrel, care should be taken to hold the measure as much as possible in a perpendicular line, that the powder may more readily fall to the bottom; it is even of service to strike the but-end of the gun gently on the ground, in order to detach those grains of powder which in falling down adhere to the sides of the barrel. The shot should never be rammed down so tight as the powder: after having given a stroke on the ground with the but-end of the gun in order to settle it the same as for the powder, the wadding should then be gently put down, but not so close as that over the powder, because when the shot is wadded too

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tight it spreads wide, and the piece will recoil. In this, therefore, as well as in every other mode of loading, the sportsman should never carry his gun under his arm with the muzzle inclined to the ground, as that practice at all times loosens the wadding and charge too much, and sometimes occasions the loss of the shot. When the piece is fired, it should be reloaded immediately while the barrel is warm, lest, by delaying it, a certain moisture should be formed in the barrel, which would retain a part of the powder when pouring in the charge, and hinder it from falling to the bottom. Powder, as already mentioned, will imbibe moisture from the air, and therefore it is of additional advantage to reload the piece whilst the barrel is warm, because some part of the moisture will be thereby evaporated. For the same reason, the sportsman should fire off a little powder before he loads the first time, as it has been found, even in the driest seasons, that the coldness of the barrel, and perhaps some little moisture condensed in its cavity, has sensibly diminished the force of the powder in the first discharge. Some sportsmen prime before they load; this may be proper when the touch-hole is enlarged, because in that case if the piece is not first primed it will, in loading, prime itself, which diminishes the charge; but when the touch-hole is of its proper size, the piece should never be primed until after it is loaded, for then it will be known from the few grains

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of powder which usually make their way into the pan, that the touch-hole is clear and unobstructed, and on the contrary if no grains come through, that it will be proper to strike the but-end of the gun smartly with your hand, and to prick the touch-hole till they appear. But whether the practice is to prime before or after loading the piece, it is highly proper after every discharge to prick the touch-hole; and what is still better, to guard against all remains of fuze, by inserting into the touch-hole the feather of a partridge's wings, which not only will clear all those dangerous remains, but if the piece is delayed to be recharged will take away all humidity that may be contracted.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SHOOTING WELL.

Every sportsman has his own manner of bringing up his gun to his shoulder and taking aim, and each follows his own fancy with respect to the stock of his fowling-piece, and its shape; some like it short, others long, one prefers it straight, another bent; and although there are some who shoot equally well with pieces stocked in different ways and shapes, yet certain principles may be laid down, as well upon the proper length as upon the proper degree of bend that the stock of a gun should have; but, in the application, those principles are frequently and more

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commonly counteracted by the idea of the particular convenience of the shooter; however it is certain, that for a tall long-armed man, the stock of a gun should be longer than for one of a less stature and shorter arm; that a straight stock is proper for him who has high shoulders and a short neck, for if it bent much it would be very difficult for him, especially in the quick motion required in shooting at a flying or running object, to place the but-end of the gun-stock firmly to the shoulder, the upper part alone would in general be fixed, which would not only raise the muzzle and consequently shoot high, but make the recoil be much more sensibly felt than if the whole end of the stock was firmly placed on the shoulder: besides, supposing the shooter to bring the but home to his shoulder, he would scarcely be able to level his piece at the object; on the contrary, a man with low shoulders and a long neck, requires a stock more bent, for if it is straight he will, in the act of lowering his head to that place of the stock at which his cheek should rest in taking aim, feel a constraint that he never would experience; when by the effect of the proper degree of bend the stock affords him some assistance, and as it were meets his aim half way. However I would advise the sportsman in the choice of a fowling-piece, to have a long stock in preference to a short one, and at the same time to have it more bent than usual; for a long stock sits more firm to the

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shoulder than a short one, and particularly so, when the shooter is accustomed to place his left hand, which principally supports the piece, above half way to the entrance of the ramrod into the stock; the practice of placing that hand near the bridge of the guard is undoubtedly a bad one, the aim is never so sure, nor has the shooter such a ready command over his piece, as when he places his hand above half way to the entrance of the ramrod, and at the same time grasps the barrel instead of resting it between his forefinger and thumb, as is the general custom; it may therefore be depended upon, that a stock bent a little more than ordinary is better for shooting true than one too straight; because the latter in coming up to the aim is subject to the inconvenience of causing the sportsman to shoot too high. I also would advise him to have his fowling-piece a little elevated at the muzzle, and the sight small and flat; for the experienced well know that it is more usual to shoot low than high; it is therefore of service that a piece should shoot a little high, and then the more flat the sight the better the line of aim will coincide with that of the fire, and in consequence the gun will be less liable to shoot low. The method to avoid missing a cross-shot, whether it be flying or running, is not only to take aim before the object, but likewise not involuntarily to stop the motion of the arms at the moment of pulling the trigger, for the instant the

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hand stops in order to fire, although the space of time is almost imperceptible, the object of a bird gets beyond the line of aim, and the shot will fly behind it: if a hare is shot at in this manner whilst running, and especially if at a distance, the animal will only be slightly struck in the buttocks, and go away with the shot: when a bird however is flying in a straight line from the shooter, this fault can do no harm, the object can scarcely escape if the piece be but tolerably well directed; unless indeed it is fired at the moment the game springs, and before the bird has taken an horizontal flight; in that case, if the hand should stop ever so little at the instant of firing, the sportsman will shoot low and miss the bird. It becomes therefore extremely essential to accustom the hand in taking aim to follow the object without suspending the motion in the least degree, which is a capital point towards acquiring the art of shooting well; but the contrary habit, which is difficult to correct when once contracted, prevents that person from attaining perfection in the art, who in other respects may eminently possess quickness of sight and steadiness of aim. Nor is it less essential in a cross shot, to aim before the object, in proportion to its distance at the time of firing. The same rule will nearly hold in the case of shooting hares, partridges, pheasants, quails, woodcocks, snipes, or even wild-ducks: when a hare runs in a straight line from

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the shooter, he should take his aim along the back to her ears, otherwise he will run the hazard either of missing, or at least of not killing her. Practice soon teaches the sportsman the proper distance at which he should shoot, and would infallibly kill any kind of game, with patent shot No. 3. provided the aim be well taken from twenty-five to thirty-five paces for the footed, and from thirty-five to forty-five and fifty paces for the winged game; beyond this distance, even to fifty-five paces, partridges, pheasants, and hares, are sometimes killed, but in general the hares are slightly wounded and carry away the shot; and partridges, at that distance, present so small a surface that they frequently escape untouched between the vacant spaces of the circle; yet it does not follow that partridges may not be killed with No. 3. patent shot at sixty paces distant, but such shots are very rare; I have indeed heard some persons say that they have killed partridges and pheasants with the same barrel and shot as mentioned, at from sixty to one hundred and twenty paces; this I leave to the judgment of the experienced sportsman.

As the means of attaining the art of shooting flying, many young beginners shoot at swallows; but I think it a bad method, and that no mode is so advantageous as the actual practice of shooting at the game, whereby that trepidation and alarm which most men feel upon the rising of a covey,

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will sooner be conquered; for while these are possessed, even in the most trifling degree, no one will attain to be a steady and good shot. A fowling-piece should not be fired more than eighteen or twenty times without being washed; as a barrel, when foul, neither shoots so ready nor carries the shot so far as when clean. The flint, pan, and hammer, should be well wiped after each shot; this contributes greatly to make the piece go off quicker: the flint should be frequently changed, without waiting till it misses fire. A gun should never be fired with the prime of the preceding day; it may happen that an old priming will sometimes go off well, but it will more frequently contract moisture and fuzz in the firing, in which case the object will most probably be missed, and that because the piece was not fresh primed.

A FEW GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO THE YOUNG SPORTSMAN, FOR HIS CONDUCT IN THE PURSUIT OF GAME.

In the first place, he should pay attention to the difference of seasons, and the weather, to the temperature of the air, and even to those hours of the day which are more or less favourable for shooting. In warm weather he should hunt for game in plains and open grounds, at the same time bearing in mind, that during the heat of the

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day the birds frequent moist places and marshes, where there is little water and high grass, the sides of brooks, ponds, and hills exposed to the north; but in cold weather they will be commonly found on little hills exposed to the south, along hedge-rows among the heath, in stubbles, and in pastures where there is much furze and fern; in hard frosts they get into thickets, low places, and marshes, where they seek to shelter themselves from the cold, as they do from the heat in different seasons. The greater part however of these rules, will only apply when the weather is extremely hot and severely cold; at both which times the hares, partridges, and pheasants, almost totally desert the plains and open grounds; the game is more easily approached, and lies better in covert than in open places; a double advantage is therefore obtained by hunting for them in the former. The sportsman should at all times of the shooting season go out in the morning before the dew is off; at that time the shepherds and their flocks have not entirely spread over the fields, and have as yet sprung but a small quantity of game; the scents of the proceeding night will also be more warm, and the dogs will hit them off the better; besides if he is not early, he loses such opportunities of shooting as he will not meet with again during the remainder of the day.—The colour of his dress, all the season throughout, should be a mixture of green and grey; as by constant

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wearing it the green will change to a fallow colour, or that resembling the dead leaf. It is best to hunt as much as possible with the wind, not only to prevent the game from perceiving the approach of the sportsman and his dog, but also to enable the latter to scent the game at a greater distance. The shooter cannot always keep the advantage of the wind, when therefore it is proposed to hunt any particular tract of country, in which game is expected to be found, it is highly necessary to take the wind; and it behoves the shooter to range and quarter his ground in such manner and direction, as to preserve it in his favour. The shooter should never be discouraged from hunting and ranging the same ground over and over again, especially in places covered with heath, brambles, high grass, or young coppice-wood; a hare, partridge, or pheasant, will frequently suffer him to pass several times within a few yards without getting up; he should be still more patient when he has marked partridges into such places, for it often happens, that after the birds have been sprung many times, they lay so dead that they suffer him almost to tread upon them before they will rise. He should always keep a sharp eye, and carefully look about him, never passing a bush or tuft of grass without examination; it is also proper to stop now and then: this frequently determines the game to spring, which would otherwise have suffered him to pass. So soon as

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he has fired he should call in his dog, and make speak him lie down until he has reloaded his piece; for without this precaution, he will frequently have the mortification to see the game rise when he cannot shoot.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR TRAINING POINTERS.

Three species of dogs are capable of receiving proper instruction, and of being trained to the game: these are, the smooth pointer, the spaniel, and the rough pointer; the last is a dog with long curled hair, and seems to be a mixed breed of the water dog and spaniel. The smooth pointer is active and lively enough in his range, but in geral is proper only for an open country; the greatest part of these dogs are afraid of water, brambles, and thickets, but the spaniel and the rough pointer are easily taught to take the water, even in the coldest weather, and to range the woods and rough places as well as the plains; greater dependence may therefore be had on the two last species of dogs, than on the smooth pointer. Before you begin to break in a dog, it will be proper when he is only six or seven months old, to teach him to fetch and carry, which may easily be done without going out of the house, by means familiar to every one, with patience and gentle treatment. If the dog is of a good breed and dis-

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position, he will acquire the habit easily; but much gentle usage is necessary at this time, and if the dog should be obstinate in learning his lessons, severity and correction should be carried only to a certain point; therefore as you perceive him to be disheartened let him rest, bestow caresses on him, and return to the task another time.

If however this task cannot be accomplished by mild treatment, you must wait until the dog is of a proper age to be regularly trained: for then, in case of great obstinacy, he will be able to bear the strong collar, and those other modes of discipline which will be hereafter described. It will, at the same time that you teach the dog to fetch and carry, also be proper to give him the first principles of obedience, which may be accomplished by walking with him a little distance from the house, and there learning him to come in when he runs too far off, and to go behind when he returns, using in the first case the words *here, come in,* and in the latter *back* or *behind.* It is also necessary to accustom the dog, at this period, to be tied up in a kennel, or stable, where you should be careful to renew his straw frequently; but in these first essays he should not be kept tied up too long, in consideration of his tender age, which seems to require some indulgence; he should therefore be let loose in the morning and fastened up again in the evening: it is also of importance that the person who intends to train him, should alone

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speak to and command him, and that none other should interfere with his education, or give him his food.

When the dog has attained the age of ten or twelve months, it will be high time to take him into the field for the purpose of regular training. At the first you may let him do as he likes, without requiring any thing of him, the first step being only to make him know his game; he will at this time run after every thing that he sees, crows, pigeons, thrushes, small birds, partridges, hares, &c. this eagerness being somewhat abated, he will end by only pursuing the partridges and hares, to the former of which his natural instinct will particularly attach him, and being soon tired with following those in vain, he will be content, after having flushed the birds, to follow them with his eyes; he will not however do the same with the hares, for seeing that they have but legs like himself, and do not leave the ground as partridges, he perceives that there is more equality with himself, and will not relinquish the hope of overtaking them; for this reason he will continue the practice of running after hares, until corrected by education; and even then it is very difficult to prevent the most crafty and best trained dog from pursuing them.

All young dogs are subject to rake, that is to hunt with their noses close to the ground, a habit which you should not suffer them to contract, and of which you should effectually break them be-

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times, if it is possible to be done, for a dog that rakes with his nose and follows the game by the track, will never make a good pointer, nor find half so much game as one that hunts with his nose high; whenever, therefore, you perceive that your young dog is following the track of partridges down wind, call to him with an angry tone *hold up*, he will then grow uneasy and agitated, going first on one side and then on the other until the wind brings him the scent of the birds. He will only have to find the birds seven or eight times this way, when he will take the wind of himself, and hunt with his nose high. Yet there are dogs which it is impossible almost to break of this fault, and such are worth training. The best method to be used with a dog of that description is, to put the puzzle-peg upon him, that is an instrument of a very simple construction, being no other than a piece of lance wood, or red deal inch board, one foot in length and an inch and a half in breadth, tapering a little to one end; at the broader end are two holes running longitudinally, through which the collar of the dog is put, and the whole is buckled round his neck; the piece of wood being projected beyond his nose, is then fastened with a piece of leather thong to his under jaw; by this means, the peg advancing seven or eight inches beyond his snout, the dog is prevented from putting his nose to the ground and raking. This instrument is also proper for any dogs that tear

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their game; and sometimes has been found to make a dog that is too eager, and possessing the bad habit of running up to the foremost dog in the point, stand better in company.

Partridges lay much better to dogs that wind them, than those that follow by the track. The dog that winds the scent approaches the birds by degrees, and that more or less as he finds them either shy or lay well, which he is enabled to know by the scent they emit when uneasy; and notwithstanding they see him hunt round about them, they will not be alarmed, because they do not perceive that he is footing them.

Nothing disturbs the birds more than seeing a dog tracing their footsteps, and keeping the same course that they are taking to steal off; and when a dog follows them in this manner down wind, it most commonly happens that he flushes them; or if by accident he makes a point, it will probably be much too near the birds; for in going down wind he cannot take the scent until he is almost upon them, and then they will not lay. As soon as the young dog knows his game, you must bring him under complete subjection and command; if he is naturally tractable, and has profited from the instructions you have given him before he has been taken into the field, it will be easy to accomplish it; but if he is stubborn and unruly, it will be necessary to make use of the trash cord.—This is done by only fastening to the collar of the

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dog a rope, or cord, of about fifteen or twenty fathom in length, and then letting him range about with this dragging on the ground; by the help of this cord you will be able to keep him in whenever you call to him, which you should never do but when you are within reach of it; and then, if he should continue to run forward, you must check him smartly with the cord which will often bring him upon his haunches, and sometimes on his back; when you have repeated this a few times, he will not fail to come in immediately upon being called; you should then caress him and give him a bit of bread, and continue to do so whenever he comes in on being called to. After this, in order to accustom him to cross and range before you, turn your back to him and walk on the opposite side; when he loses sight of you, he will come to find you, and be agitated and afraid of losing you; and will, in ranging, turn his head from time to time to observe whereabout you are: ten or twelve days' practice of this manœuvre will make him range on whatever side you please, by only giving him a sign with the hand. When the dog is arrived at this point of instruction be careful to keep him constantly tied up, never unchain him but when you give him his food, and not always then, but at those times only when he has done something to deserve it. The next step will be to throw down a piece of bread on the ground, at the same moment taking

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hold of the dog by the collar, calling out to him *take heed, softly;* after having held him in this manner for some space of time, say to him *seize, lay hold,* if he is impatient to lay hold of the piece of bread before the signal is given, correct him gently with a small whip; repeat this lesson until he takes heed well, and no longer requires to be held fast to prevent him from laying hold of the bread. When he is well accustomed to this manage, turn the bread with a stick, holding it in the manner you do a fowling-piece, and having done so, cry *seize.* Never suffer the dog to eat either in the house or field, without having first bid him *take heed* in this manner. Then in order to apply this lesson to the game, fry small pieces of bread in hog's lard, with the dung of grouse, partridge, or pheasant, take these in a linen bag into the fields, stubbles, ploughed ground, and pastures, and there put the pieces in several different places, marking the spots with little cleft pickets of wood, which will be rendered more distinguishable by putting pieces of paper, or card, in the niches; this being, done, cast off your dog, and conduct him to those places, always hunting in the wind; after he has caught the scent of the bread, if he approaches too near and seems eager to fall upon it, cry to him in a menacing tone *take heed,* and if he does not stop immediately, correct him with the whip; he will soon comprehend what is required of him, and stand. At the next lesson,

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take your gun, charged only with powder, walk gently round the piece of bread once or twice, and fire instead of crying *seize*. The next time of practising this lesson, walk round the piece of bread four or five times, but in a greater circle than before, and continue to do this until the dog is conquered of his impatience, and will stand without moving until the signal is given him. When he keeps his point well, and stands steady in this lesson, you may carry him to the birds; if he runs in upon them, or bark when they spring up, you must correct him; and if he continues to do so, you must return to the fried bread; but this is seldom necessary if the dog be of a good temper.

There are many dogs that will point the first day they are taken out; and there are others that will both point and back the first time by natural instinct; but to make the dog staunch, you should endeavour to kill a few birds on the ground before him, and should not shoot flying until he is well trained and steady: this however can only be done when the dog is broke in during the shooting season. The spring is the best time for training dogs, because the birds being then paired, lay better; and being sprung more seldom, and in fewer numbers, the dog is not so subject to be eager, and is kept under command with greater ease; but as this season scarcely allows time to make the dog perfect and staunch, you must re-

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sume his lessons in the month of August, and kill five or six old grouse, or moor-game cocks, on the ground before him, which will complete him against the first of September for partridge shooting.

To make a dog back and stand in company, you should hunt him with an old staunch dog, and then, with a small application of the principles of training, you will easily effect this necessary qualification.—Young dogs, for the most part, love to run after poultry, and some after sheep; those are faults which it is absolutely necessary to correct betimes: as to poultry, if you cannot make your dog leave off the custom of chasing them, by virtue of the whip, the following method will do it: take a small stick, cleft at one end sufficiently wide to admit of the tail of the dog, which being introduced, tie the cleft end with a piece of twine tight enough to make him feel pain; at the other end of the stick tie a fowl by the wing, then after a little time let the dog loose, at the instant giving him a few heavy strokes with a whip, the dog will then run as fast as he can, by reason of the pain in his tail, which he imagines is caused by the fowl; by dint of dragging the fowl he will kill it, and spent with running he will stop, and afterwards hide himself in some hole; then take off the stick, and beat him about the mouth and head with the dead fowl.

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If the dog runs after sheep, and you cannot break him of the custom, couple him with a ram, and in letting them loose, whip the dog as long as you can follow him; his cries will at first alarm the ram who will run with all his speed, and drag the dog along with him; but he will soon take courage, and end with butting the dog most severely. When you think the dog has received sufficient correction, uncouple him, and I conceive he will never run after sheep again.

OF GAME.

THE HARE.

ACCORDING to naturalists, the hare lives seven or eight years, and attains its full growth in one; from the first year it engenders almost at all seasons, and has no particular time for coupling with the female; yet it is observable, that from the month of December to the month of March the buck seeks the doe more frequently, and about that time the greatest number of leverets are found: the doe goes with young thirty-one days, and brings forth one, two, three, and and sometimes four, young ones, which she kindles in a tuft of grass, or heath, or in a little bush,

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without any preparation whatever.—When there are several leverets at a birth, they are invariably marked with a star on the forehead, and when there is but one it never has this mark. The sportsman, to distinguish the male from the female, will observe, that the head of the male is more short and round, the whiskers longer, the shoulders more ruddy, and the ears shorter and broader than those of the female, the head of which is long and narrow, the ears long, and sharp at the tip, the fur of the back of a grey colour inclining to black, and in point of size is longer than the male.—The male hare, or buck, when he is hunted with hounds, after making one or two rings generally runs straight forwards; he goes a great way and makes a long chase: the doe runs less, she dodges about the place she inhabits, and doubles more frequently. When a hare is espied on the form, if the manner in which the ears lie is observed, it may be known whether it is a buck or a doe; if a buck, the ears will be drawn close upon the shoulders one against the other, but if a doe the ears will be open and distant on each side of the neck and shoulders.

Two species of hares may be distinguished; those of the wood, and those of the plain. The hares of the wood are in general much larger than those of the open ground; they are not of so dark a colour, and better covered with fur; they are also swifter in the chase, and their flesh is of a better

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flavour. Among the hares of the plains, those may be distinguished which inhabit the marshes: they are not so swift of foot, are less covered with fur, and their flesh is not so fine and delicate.

A young hare, that has attained its full growth, is known from an old one by feeling the knee joints of the fore legs with the thumb-nail: when the heads of the two bones which form the joint are contiguous, and little or no space to be perceived between them, the hare is old; if, on the contrary, there is a perceptible separation between the two bones, the hare is young; and is more or less so, as the two bones are more or less separated. But as shooting, or otherwise destroying hares, although an amusement much admired by the sportsmen of other countries, yet in this is practised only by poachers, and is even doubted by some to be permitted by the existing game-laws, I shall purposely omit all description on that head, and be content with giving one hint on the subject: if the sportsman wants to come near a hare when espied upon the form, he must not go forwards in a straight line, but approach circularly, otherwise she will start up.

THE PARTRIDGE.

These birds pair in the spring, but at an earlier or later period, in proportion as the season is more or less mild; should the days prove warm and

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exhaling, even in the month of January, they are found in pairs, but then if the cold weather returns they again form in coveys. The hen partridge lays her eggs during the whole month of May and the beginning of June; her nest is made upon the ground, and consists only of a few blades of grass constructed without art, either at the edge of a corn-field, in a meadow, heath, &c. She lays from fourteen to twenty-two eggs, the earliest birds begin to fly towards the latter end of June. From this state of growth their plumage undergoes a variety of changes, until the period arrives when the red and blackish feathers begin to form the horse-shoe upon the breast, which is very conspicuous on the male, but less distinguishable on females. This mark takes place about the beginning or the middle of October and it is not until that is perfect that they can be properly called partridges.

In the next place it will be proper to consider their haunts, which are not certain like the pheasant's, but various: any covert will serve their turn, and sometimes none at all. The places they most delight in are corn-fields, especially whilst the corn grows, for under that covert they shelter, engender, and breed; neither are these places unfrequented by them when the corn is cut down, by reason of the grain they find therein, especially wheat-stubble, and they delight in the height thereof, it being to them a covert or shel-

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ter. Now when the wheat-stubble is much trodden by men or beasts, then they take themselves to the barley-stubble, provided it be fresh and untrodden; and they will, in the furrows amongst the clods, brambles, and long grass, hide both themselves and coveys, which are sometimes twenty in number. After the winter season is come, and the stubble-fields plowed up, or over soiled with cattle, then do the partridges resort to the upland meadows, and lodge in the dead grass or fog under the hedges, amongst mole hills, or under the roots of trees; sometimes they repair to copses and under-woods, especially if any corn-fields are adjacent, or where grows broom, brakes, fern, or any covert whatsoever. In the harvest time, when every field is full of men and cattle, then you may find them in the day-time on the fallows next adjoining to the corn-fields, where they lie lurking till the evening, when they feed amongst the shocks or sheaves of corn; and so they do likewise early in the morning.

When you know their haunts according to the situation of the country and season of the year, your next care must be to find them out in those haunts, which is managed several ways: some do it by the eye only, and this art can never be taught, but must be learnt by frequent practice; distinguishing thereby the colour of the partridge from that of the earth, and perceiving how and in what manner they lodge and couch together;

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for which purpose you may come near enough to them, as they are a very lazy bird, and so unwilling to take the wing that you may even set your foot upon them before they will stir, provided you do not stand and gaze on them, but be in continual motion, otherwise they will spring up and be gone. There is another way to discover them, and that is by going to their haunts early in the morning, or the close of the evening, which is called the juking time, and there listen for the call of the cock partridge, which will be very loud and earnest, and after some calls the hen will answer, and by this means they meet together, which you will know by their rejoicing and chattering one with another; then take your range about them, drawing nearer and nearer to the place where you heard them juke in, casting your eye towards the furrows of the lands, and so take them as your fancy shall lead you.

The best, safest, and easiest way of finding partridges, is by the call; having first learned the true and natural notes of the partridge, knowing how to tune every note in its proper key, and applying them to their due times and seasons.

Being perfect therein, either mornings or evenings, (all other times being improper) go to their haunts, and having conveyed yourself into some secret place, where you may see and not be seen, listen awhile if you can hear the partridges call; if you do, answer them again in the same note;

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and as they change or double their notes, so must you in like manner, thus continue doing till they draw nearer and nearer to you. Having them in view, lay yourself on your back, and lie as if you were without motion, by which you may count their numbers: in this method the sportsman will always find most game, and save himself and dogs much trouble in the search of it.

SETTING.

How to take partridges, pheasants, moor-game, quails, &c. with a setting dog and net.

There is no art of taking partridges, &c. so excellent and pleasant as by the help of a setting-dog; therefore, before we proceed to the sport, we shall give you an account what the setting-dog is. You are to understand, that a setting-dog is a certain lusty land spaniel, taught by nature to hunt the partridge more than any chase whatever, running the fields over with such alacrity and nimbleness, as if there was no limit to his fury and desire, yet by art under such excellent command, that in the height of his career, by a hem or sound of his master's voice, he shall stand, gaze about him, look his master in the face, and observe his directions, whether to proceed, stand still, or retire; nay, when he is even just upon his prey, that he may take it up in his mouth: yet his obe-

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dience is so framed by art, that presently he shall either stand still or fall down flat on his belly, without daring to make any noise or motion till his master comes to him, and then he will proceed in all things to follow his directions.

Having a dog thus qualified by art and nature, take him with you where partridges haunt; there cast off your dog, and by some word of encouragement which he is acquainted with, engage him to range, but never too far from you; and see that he beats his ground justly and even, without casting about, or flying now here, now there, which the mettle of some will do if not corrected and reproved: and therefore when you perceive this fault you must call him in with a hem, and so check him that he dare not do the like again for that day, and will range afterwards with more temperance, ever and anon looking in his master's face, as if he would gather from thence whether he did well or ill.

If in your dog's ranging you perceive him to stop on a sudden or stand still, you must then make up to him, for without doubt he hath set the partridges, and as soon as you come to him, command him to go nearer, but if he goes not, lies still, or stands shaking his tail, and now and then looks back, then cease from urging him farther, and take your circumference walking fast, with a careless eye looking straight before the dog, and thereby see how the covey lies, whether close

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or straggling. Then commanding the dog to lie still, draw forth your net and prick one end to the ground, and spread your net all open, and so cover as many of the partridges as you can, which done, make in with a noise and spring up the partridges, and they will no sooner rise than be entangled in the net. If you let go the old cock and hen, it will not only be the act of a fair sportsman, but also a means to increase your own pastime by preserving the breed.

THE PHEASANT,

Is of the size of a common dunghill-cock, and a superb bird in his plumage, with a proud and noble gait. This of course is only to be understood as relating to the male, for the plumage of the female has little splendor, and resembles the quail, which makes them easy to be distinguished in shooting, and prevents the killing a hen instead of a cock. These birds generally lay their eggs in the woods, the number of which is commonly ten or twelve; the season of the young pheasants nearly corresponds with that of the partridges.

The pheasant in the first year is marked in the wing like a partridge. The young cock, whose plumage is completed the first year, is in like manner known by his spurs, which are round and blunt, but long and sharp in the old ones; the hen has also a small spur on the hinder part of

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the leg, which is very small in those that are young, and more large and prominent in a greater or less degree, in proportion to the age of the bird; besides, in young ones, the spurs are each surrounded with a small black circle, which does not disappear till the second hatching. The legs of those that are very old, that is to say, such as have attained five or six years, are more wrinkled and of a darker colour than those of the young ones in the first year: the crystal of the eye in the former is also more yellow, whilst that of the young ones of the first and second year is white. But all these marks and signs are not without many exceptions.

To find the pheasants you must first understand their haunts, which are never in open fields, but in thick young copses well grown, and not in old high woods. Having thus found out their coverts, which must be solitary and untraced by men or cattle, the next thing will be to find out the eye or brood of pheasants.

The first way is by going into those young copses, and carefully viewing them, searching every where, and by that means finding where they run together, as chickens after a hen: or, secondly, you must rise early in the morning, or come late in the evening, and observe how and when the old cock and hen call their young ones to them, and how the young ones answer back unto them again, and so forth, that sound direct

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your path as near as you can to the place where they are, lying down so close that you may not be discerned, by which means you will know where they meet.

But the most certain means of finding them out, is to have a natural pheasant's call, which you must learn how to use, understanding all their notes, and how to apply them; for they have several notes, and all different: one to cluck them together, another to chide them when they straggle too far, a third to call them to meat when she hath found it, a fourth to make them look out for food themselves, and a fifth to call them about her to sport withal. You use your call in the morning early, at which time they straggle abroad to find provender; or in the evening just about the sun-setting, which is their time likewise for feeding.

Now although these are the best times to use your call, yet you may call them together at any other time of the day, only altering your note; just at or before sun-rising your note must be to call them to feed, and so at sun-set; but in the fore and afternoon your note must be to cluck them together, or brood, or to chide them for straggling, or to give them notice of some approaching danger. Knowing your notes, and how to apply them where the pheasants haunt, which you will know by the strength of the undergrowth, obscureness, darkness, and solitariness of the place;

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you must then lodge yourself as close as possible, and call at first very softly, lest the pheasants being lodged very near should be affrighted at a loud note; but if nothing replies, rise your note higher and higher, till you extend it to the uttermost compass, and any pheasant within hearing will answer it in a note as loud as your own, provided it be not untuneable, for that will spoil all. As soon as you hear this answer, if it be from afar and from one single bird, creep nearer and nearer unto it, still calling, but not so loud, and as you approach nearer to it, so will the pheasant to you; and as you alter your note, so will the pheasant, which in all points you must endeavour to imitate. In the end you will get sight, either on the ground or perch, where you may have a good shot, or take it as fancy leads you. At sun set the greatest part of them fly up into the long branches of oak trees, in order to roost all night, and at the time they do this they invariably make a noise, which is called *cocketting*, and that in a greater degree during the winter season, so that poachers who lie in wait for them in the evening, are warned by the noise of the place where they are perched, and when the night is advanced repair under those trees which the birds have chosen, and shoot them with the greatest ease, for at this time the pheasant will permit them to come as near as they please.

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THE GROUSE, MOOR-GAME, OR MUIR-GAME,

Are found in some parts of the northern counties of England, and in some parts of Wales, but in neither of the countries are they at this day very numerous. In Scotland, however, and particularly in the vicinity of the Grampian mountains, they abound in such sort, that I have seen from thirty to forty brace a day killed for the first fortnight of the season, provided the weather was favourable. An excursion therefore into that country in the grouse season, for three weeks or a month, will afford the sportsman a noble entertainment.

This species of sport is so perfectly similar in all its operations to that of partridge shooting, that it will be unnecessary to say more on the subject, than to subjoin a short description of the bird, and some of its habits. The grouse is larger than the partridge, and weighs from eighteen to twenty ounces; the plumage is a mixture of red, black, and white; and the tail is nearly similar to that of a partridge, but a little larger. The legs are clothed with feathers to the very toes, and the outermost and inner toes are connected to the first joint of the middle toe by a small membrane. The bill is short, arched, and of a blackish colour; and the eyes are encircled with two large red eye-

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brows, which are composed of a fleshy membrane, round and pinked on the upper part, and extending beyond the crown of the head.

The plumage of the hen has less of the red and more of the white than the cock. The membrane of the eye-brow is less projected, less pinked, and of a less lively red. She makes her nest on the ground, and lays from seven to ten eggs.

The principal food of grouse in the summer season, is the black wortle-berry and the red wortle-berry, also the common heath-berries; but their food is nothing more than the seeds that grow on the tops of the young heath or heather, and small pebbles all the winter and till the next berry season. By opening the part that contains the food, the sportsman will find it so, and the fragrance very fine. The young birds for the first year are called poults.

The grouse inhabit those mountains and moors which are covered with heath or heather, and seldom or ever descend into the lower grounds. They fly in packs consisting in general of four or five brace; and they love to frequent mossy places, particularly in the middle of the day, and when the weather is warm. The old cock is known by the *cocking* noise he makes, and when the dogs point at a brood, he is commonly the first bird that goes off.

In pursuing this game, if, when the dogs are set, the shooter perceives the birds to erect their

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heads and run, he may be pretty certain they will not lie very well during the course of that day; and the only mode by which he will be able to get at them, is to make a circle of about sixty or seventy yards round them, with a careless eye, and the dogs standing staunch all the time, till you get a head of the birds; when they perceive you before them and the dogs behind them, they will squat to the ground, and lie close; when you observe this, step gently towards the dogs and the birds in a straight line; between you and the dogs they will lie till you get within twenty-five or thirty yards of them, by which means you are certain of a shot; when by following them up with the dogs and running, not once in ten times you get within shot, and at the same time make the birds much wilder the remainder of the day.

As the season for shooting this game commences in hot weather, and the birds when shot are subject to become putrid in a short space of time, it is highly proper, especially if they are wanted to be sent a distance, that they should be drawn carefully, and extremely clean, the very instant they are shot, and immediately afterwards stuffed with dry heather: and if the plumage happens to be wetted by the fall to the ground when the bird is shot, it must at the same time be wiped as dry as possible, before it is put into the game-bag. Before the birds are packed up to be sent off, it

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is also proper to lay them in the sun half an hour, in order to render them more dry.

HEATH FOWL.

There are also innumerable quantities of the black cock, or commonly called heath-fowl, and a great number of the tarmigan, found in the vicinity of the Grampian mountains, at the dukes of Athol, Gordon, Argyle, and the earl of Bredalbane's, which afford excellent diversion to the sportsman, the same as that of the grouse, and their shooting season the same. The heath-fowl lays from eight to ten eggs, she makes her nest on the ground like the grouse; they generally breed in the heath or heather, and near the edge of woods; when her young is hatched about three or four days, the hen leads them into the woods in order to find out provender for her young, such as ants, their eggs, &c. here they will remain three weeks; afterwards they will straggle up into the moors, two miles or more, in order to get food. They at this time feed on the black wortle-berry, also the red wortle-berry, and all the other common heath-berries; their food is the same as that of the grouse all the year: there you will find them in broods, when ranging for moor-game, and they afford equal sport with the grouse.

The black cock is much more esteemed for its flavour than the moor-game, and is as black as a raven, and after the second year there appears a

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white feather in each wing. The legs are clothed with feathers to the very toes, the same as the grouse; the bill short, arched, and of a black colour; and the eyes encircled with two large red eye-brows, like the grouse, but twice as large. The plumage of the hen is much the same as that of the hen grouse, but something more white. The black cock weighs from thirty to near forty ounces.

THE PTARMIGAN, OR TARMIGAN,

Is in shape and form a species of grouse, and only differs a little in its size and colour. The colour is mottled black and white, something like the grey feather in the mallard; the eyes are encircled with red eyebrows, but not so large nor so pinked as that of the grouse; the legs clothed with feathers to the very toes; and the bill short, arched, and of a dark greyish colour. She makes her nest on the top of the highest and barest part of the mountains, among the small loose stones, which she fills up with moss, and lays seven or eight eggs. The time of shooting them the same as grouse and black-game. They fly in packs like grouse, but are rather a foolish bird, as they will run before you on the bare ground like chickens, so that the shooter may kill one half of the pack on the ground at one shot. The tarmigan weighs from fifteen to seventeen ounces.

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THE WOODCOCK,

Is a bird of passage, and commonly arrives in this country about the latter end of October. The passage in different seasons, is more or less advanced or retarded, according as the wind and weather happens to be at the beginning of the autumn: the east and north-east winds, and especially when they are accompanied with fogs, bring them over in the greatest numbers. At their arrival on the first flight they drop any where, as well under high trees as in copses, in hedge-rows, or among heath and brambles; afterwards they take up their abode in copses of nine or ten years' growth, and sometimes in those little rows, which having been cut, are left to grow for timber; for it is but seldom that a woodcock is found in a young copse of more than three or four years' growth. When it is said they take up their abode, it must not be understood to mean that they remain in the same wood during the whole of the winter, for it is observed that they do not stay more than sixteen or eighteen days in one place.

This bird rises heavily from the ground and makes a considerable noise when he wings. When he is found in an open field, in a hedge-row, or in the pass of a wood, he frequently only skims the ground, and then his flight not being rapid, he is

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easily shot. But when he is sprung in a tall wood, where he is obliged to clear the tops of the trees before he can take an horizontal flight, he sometimes rises very high, and with great rapidity; in this case it is difficult to seize the moment of shooting, by reason of the turnings and twistings which he is obliged to make in order to pass through the trees. The woodcock walks clumsily, as all birds are observed to do which have great wings and short legs. His sight is also very bad, and particularly in the day-time, it is said however that he sees better in the dusk.

Shooting woodcocks is very pleasant amusement in woods which are not too thick, and if they are cut through in several places it renders it more easy to shoot them in their passage, when they spring in the wood, and also to mark them with greater certainty. There is a species of spaniels which give tongue when the cock springs, or when they get upon his haunt; these dogs are extremely useful, as they warn the sportsman to be upon his guard. In this sport it is very material to have two or three good markers; with this assistance, if the wood is not too large, it will be difficult for a cock to escape from a good shot. I have seen it frequently happen that he will suffer himself to be sprung and shot at two or three times, before he will leave the wood to go to a hedge-row. During the day time the woodcock remains in those parts of the woods where there are void places or glades,

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picking up earth-worms and grubs from among the fallen leaves; when night comes on he goes to drink, and if it is frost and snow will feed there all night, and at the break of day return to the wood: the sportsman may therefore advantageously watch at some opening, or cut, which runs through the wood, and shoot him in his passage to and from it in the morning or evening. It is in these openings that nets are spread, to take the woodcocks in their morning and evening flights. They may also be watched with advantage in the morning and evening flights, at those narrow passes and valleys, on the edges of the woods, which lead to springs or heads of waters.

Those who know the custom that the woodcock has of going in the evening to the springs that adjoin the woods, practise another method of killing them; which is by watching near those springs in the dusk of the evening, in order to shoot them as they alight.

Woodcocks remain in this country until the middle of March, and may be found all the winter season, if the weather is not too severe; but if frosts happen which last for some time, they will almost totally disappear at that interval, and a few will only be found by hazard in certain places where there are springs which do not freeze.

A month, or thereabouts, before their departure, it is common to see them in pairs at the morning and evening flights; and to hear them

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when flying make a piping noise, although at other times they are quite mute.

As they are found in greater numbers in the month of March, than in the middle of winter, it is certain that they assemble at that time in order to go abroad. Woodcocks are fattest from the middle of November, till about the first of February: when they begin to pair, to the time of their departure, they are much leaner. It is said the female may be distinguished from the male, by a narrow stripe of white along the lower part of the exterior web of the outermost feather of the wing: the same part in the outermost feather of the male, is elegantly and regularly spotted with black and reddish white; in the bastard wing of each sex is a small pointed narrow feather, very elastic, and much sought after by painters as a pencil.

SNIPES.

Make their appearance here in autumn, and remain until the spring. It is generally supposed that they return into Germany and Switzerland to breed; nevertheless a great number remain with us during the summer, and breed in marshes, where they lay their eggs, in the month of June, to the number of four or five. Snipes are scarcely worth shooting until the middle of October, or when the first frost sets in: in November they

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grow very fat. These birds when they abound afford very excellent sport. It is remarked that snipes always fly against the wind, which is also the case with woodcocks; for this reason it is best to hunt for them as much as possible with the wind to the back, because they then fly towards the sportsman and present a fairer mark.

The snipe is generally esteemed difficult to shoot, by reason of the many turnings and twistings which it makes on being sprung: but this difficulty exists only in the minds of inexperienced sportsmen, as there are many birds more difficult to shoot flying. When once the shooter can accustom himself to let the snipe fly away, without his being in haste or alarmed, he will find that the flight is not much more difficult to follow than that of the quail; and it is better to let him fly some distance, because the smallest grain of shot will kill him, and he will fall to the ground if struck ever so slightly. Among the common snipes some are larger than others; these are thought to be the males: snipes however are sometimes found, which, from their extraordinary size, must necessarily be of a different species, but those are so rare, that they do not here require a particular description.

WILD DUCKS.

This race of birds which have the shape and

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form of the tame duck, are extremely numerous, and there is no other bird which affords so many different species as this; but of these only the common wild ducks are found in considerable numbers in Great-Britain. I shall therefore confine the description to them alone.

Wild ducks are also birds of passage, and arrive here in great flights from the northern countries, in the winter; still, however, a great many remain in our marshes, fens, lakes, &c. and there breed. They pair in spring, and lay from twelve to sixteen eggs. The duck commonly constructs her nest at the edge of the water, upon some tuft of rushes, amongst grass or furze, or large swamps and lakes on the moors, and begins to lay about the middle of March; her incubation is about thirty days, and young ones are most commonly hatched in May. The growth of their wings is very slow, and they attain more than half of their size before they are able to fly, which happens about the beginning of August, near three months after the time of being hatched.

The wild duck differs little in plumage from the tame duck, but it is easily distinguished by its size, which is less: the neck being more slender, as also the foot smaller; the nails are more black, and above all, the web of the foot, which is finer and softer to touch.

In the summer season, when it is known that a team of young ducks are in a particular piece of

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water, and just beginning to fly, the sportsman is sure to find them early in the morning dabbling at the edge of the pool, and amongst the long grass, and then he may get very near to shoot them.

By the means of a little boat they may be shot at any time of the day; and this method succeeds admirably well on small pieces of water, as by the help of it they may all be killed. It will be still more easy to effect this, if the sportsman can contrive to kill the old duck; in that case he may tie a tame duck by the leg, with a piece of packthread, to a pin of wood drove into the ground, at the edge of the water: this may be done in a manner that the duck may be able to swim a little way into the water. He must then conceal himself within gun-shot; she will soon begin to quack, and so soon as the young ones hear her, they will come out to her thinking it to be their mother. By these means the sportsman may kill half of the team at one shot; but if he wishes to take them alive, he has only to throw into the water, near to the duck, a few fish-hooks tied upon pieces of twine, and baited with pieces of the lights of a calf. The lines must be fastened to pickets placed at the edge of the water, and if there be a dozen young ducks he will get them all, if he has hooks enough.

In shooting wild ducks, &c. observe always to shoot with the wind, if possible; and rather sideways or behind the fowl than full in their face.

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Next observe to choose the most convenient shelter you can find, either hedge, bank, tree or any thing else which may hide you from the view of the fowls. And be sure to have your dog at your heels, under good command, not daring to stir till you bid him, having first discharged your piece; as some dogs ill-taught will, upon the snap of the cock, presently rush out and spoil all the sport.

If you have not shelter enough, by reason of the nakedness of the banks and want of trees, you must creep upon your hands and knees under the banks, and lying flat upon your belly, put the nose of your piece over the bank and take your level: for a fowl is so fearful of man, that though an hawk were soaring over her head, yet at the sight of him she would take the wing and run the risk of that danger. But sometimes it so happens, that the fowls are so shy, there is no getting a shot at them without a stalking-horse, which must be some old jade trained up for the purpose, who will gently, and as you please, walk up and down in the water, flodding and eating the grass that grows therein. You must shelter yourself and gun behind his fore shoulders, bending your body down low by his sides, and keeping his body still full between you and the fowls; being within shot, take your level from before the fore part of the horse, shooting as it were between the horse's neck and the water, which is much better than

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shooting under his belly, being more secure and less perceivable. To supply the want of a stalking-horse, which will take up a great deal of time to instruct and make fit for this exercise, you may make one of any piece of old canvass, and shape it into the form of a horse, with the head bending downwards as if he grazed, and stuff it with any light matters; but do not forget to paint it the colour of a horse, of which brown is the best; and let a staff be fixed in the midst, with a sharp iron at the end, to stick into the ground as you may see occasion, standing fast till you take your level. It must be made so portable that you may bear it with ease in one hand, moving it so that it may seem to graze as you go. Let the stature of your artificial stalk-horse be neither too low nor too high, for the one will not hide your body, and the other will be apt to frighten the fowls. Instead of this stalking-horse, you may fashion out of canvass painted, an ox or a cow; and this change is necessary, when you have so beaten the fowl with your stalking-horse that they begin to find your deceit, and will no longer endure it, as it frequently falls out, then you may stalk with an ox or cow till the stalking-horse be forgotten, and by this means make your sport continual.

There are other dead engines to stalk withal; as an artificial tree, shrub, or bush, which may be made of small wands, and with painted canvass, into the shape of a willow, poplar, or such

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trees as grow by river or water sides, for these are best. If you stalk with a shrub or bush, let them not be so tall as your tree, but much thicker; which you may make either of one entire bush, or of divers bushes interwoven one with another, either with small withy-wands, cord or packthread, that may not be discerned; and let not your bush exceed the height of a man, but thicker than three or four men, with a spike at the bottom to stick into the ground whilst you take your level.

Another good way to shoot ducks in winter, and especially in frost at their evening flight, at which time they fly about and are more in motion than at any other time, is to watch for them in the dusk of the evening at the margins of little pools and springs where they come to feed; then they may either be shot whilst on the wing, or at the moment in which they alight on the water: when the frost is very severe, and the pools and rivers are frozen up, they must be watched for in places where there are warm springs and waters which do not freeze. The sport is much more certain, because the ducks are confined to those places in order to procure herbs, which are almost the only food that remains for them at this period.

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HOW TO TRAIN A WATER-DOG, AND THE USE THEREOF.

I shall begin with his colour, and although some attribute much to that, yet experience lets us know they are uncertain observations. Your dog may be any colour and yet excellent, but choose him of hair long and curled, not loose and shaggy; his head round and curled; his ears broad and hanging; eyes full, lively, and quick; his nose very short, and lip like a hound; the chaps with a full set of strong teeth, and neck thick and short; his breast sharp, and shoulders broad; his fore legs straight, chine square, and buttocks round; his belly gaunt, and thighs brawny, &c.

For the training of this dog you cannot begin too soon, and therefore as soon as he can lap you must teach him to couch and lie down, not daring to stir from that posture without leave. In his first teaching let him eat nothing till he deserves it, and have no more teachers, feeders, or correctors but one, and do not alter that word you first use in his information, as the dog will take notice of the sound, not the language.

When you have made him acquainted with the word suitable to his lesson, you must then teach him to know the word of reprehension, which at first should be used without a jerk, and also use words of cherishing to give him encouragement

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when he does well; and in all these words you must be constant, and let them be attended with spitting in his mouth, or cherishing with the hand. There is also a word of advice, instructing him when he does amiss.

Having made him understand these several words, then teach him to lead in a string or collar orderly, not running too forward nor hanging backward; after this teach him to come close at your heels, without leading, as he must not range by any means, unless it be to beat the fowl from their coverts, or to fetch the wounded.

In the next place teach him to fetch and carry any thing you throw out of your hands, and first try him with a glove, shaking it over his head and making him snap at it; sometimes letting him hold it in his mouth, and strive to pull it from him; at last throw it a little way and let him worry it on the ground, and so by degrees make him bring it to you wherever you throw it; from the glove you may teach him to fetch cudgels, bags, nets, &c. If you use the dog to carry dead fowl it will not be amiss, for by that means he will not tear or bruise what fowl you shoot. Having perfected this lesson, drop something behind you which the dog does not see, and being gone a little way from it send him back to seek it, by saying *back, I have lost;* if he seems amazed, point with your finger urging him to seek out, and leave him not till he has done it; then drop something

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at a greater distance and make him find that too, till you have brought him to go back a mile: you may now train up for your gun, making the dog stalk after you step by step, or else couch and lie close till you have shot.

The last use of the water-dog is in moulting time, when wild fowl cast their feathers and are unable to fly, which is between summer and autumn; at this time bring your dog to their coverts and hunt them out into the stream, and there, with your gun and nets, surprise them, driving them into them, for at this time sheep will not drive more easy. Though some may object that this sickly time is unseasonable, yet if they consider what excellent food these fowls will prove, the taking of them may be excusable. I have eaten of them after they have been fed awhile with livers of beasts, barley paste, scalded bran, and such like food, they have proved exceedingly fat, and have tasted not so fishy as they do by their natural feeding, but very sweet, and deserve preference to any fowl whatever.

As the language of sportsmen possesses a great number of specific names peculiar to themselves, when speaking of the various objects of their pursuit, it may not be improper to notice them in this place, and give such terms as are proper.

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Covey of partridges.
Nide of pheasants, commonly called a Ni.
Pack of grouse, or brood.
Pack of tarmigan.
Brood of black game, or heath fowl.
Wisp, or whisp, of snipes.
Wing of plover.
Flock of geese.
Bevy of quails.
Flight of woodcocks.
Trip of dotterel.
Team of ducks.
Flock of bustards.

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OF THE

FOREST OF BLAIR.

THE Forest of Blair, in Perthshire, belonging to his grace the Duke of Athol, is one of the largest and finest in Great-Britain; intersected with beautiful rivers, and abounding with red and roe-deer, but of rein-deer there are but very few or none remaining. It stretches for nearly thirty miles by the side of the Grampian mountains; adjoining it are two other very large forests, the property of the Duke of Gordon, and the Earl of Fife, and throughout them all there is venison in the greatest plenty.

During the months of July and August, the aged harts feed and lie on the tops and sides of high hills, in order to have the advantage of the wind, being very fearful of men and dogs; the hinds are mostly in the valleys with their calves, and a few straggling harts among them.

I had the honour to attend the Duke of Athol on an excursion into his extensive forest in August, 1805, and shall here attempt to describe the manner of his grace's sport: when he first

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alights from his horse the servants present him with telescopes, by the use of which, looking on the mountains' sides, or in the valleys, it is easy to distinguish, every hart, hind or calf: and I may venture to say that in eight hours not fewer have been perceived than from three to four thousand head, young and old, in a corner of the forest; and were it possible to go over it in one day, I am confident a man might see, at least, ten thousand deer.

When his grace espies the harts lying down, or grazing, he uses all methods to gain the wind of them, approaching with the utmost caution till within a hundred or six score yards, he fires from a rifle gun, and being a capital marksman seldom misses his aim; as the herd passes by, his servants supply him with a second and third piece, and he frequently kills a hart at each shot.—When they are not to be come at in the wide and open valleys, his men are sent round in all directions where the deer can catch the wind of them, and on sight, or winding of them, the deer return down wind, where his grace, taking advantage of the track with the wind in his favour in the time they drive by him, can fire the three rifle guns in one minute, and will hit them on full speed from one hundred to one hundred and fifty yards distance. When the deer is wounded, in a general way, he leaves the herd, or rather the other harts force him out as soon as he begins to bleed freely.

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The man who leads the greyhounds, by a signal from his grace's hand, uncouples one or both of them, when they come to his grace, or the forester, the dog or dogs are laid to the slot, or track; if the deer has not broke from the herd, the greyhounds will single him out from the others if there be a thousand of them together, and will not look at any other but that deer which is wounded: sometimes he will run a mile or two before the dogs bring him to bay, there they will keep him till the forester comes up and cuts the deer's throat, and the dogs' reward is the hot blood, which makes them eager and keen.

The deer thus killed is paunched and laid across a horse and tied on; his grace has always two or three of those horses and men following at a distance in order to carry home the slain of the day. Some days he kills from four to six harts, weighing from twenty to twenty-five stone English weight, viz. fourteen pounds to the stone; and I have seen several brought home to Blair-castle that cut on the haunches more than three inches of solid fat.

For grouse, black game, and tarmigan, this place, in my opinion, has not its equal. The mountain hare is also peculiar to the forests of this country, and considerably larger than the wold hares, and weighs from eleven to fourteen pounds; in the beginning of October they cast their summer's coat of the common colour, and

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become perfectly white by Christmas, except the black mark at the back of the scut. They are generally shot, or killed with greyhounds, but by the last method chiefly, when the snow is deep, as there are many holes and crevices among the rocks and mountains where they run in and out like rabbits.

All round Blair-castle, and his grace's seat at Dunkeld on the Tay, there is excellent salmon and trout fishing, and in as delightful a country as any part of the kingdom. A most elegant bridge is now erecting by his grace across the river Tay, in the centre of the town of Dunkeld, on the high road from Edinburgh to Towerness. At the inns are good accommodations for gentlemen and travellers who wish to take a tour through the country, and the roads are all exceedingly good.

OF THE DEER.

Though this volume does not profess to treat of hunting, it will be necessary for me to give a short account of the nature of deer, and the method of slotting and harbouring them, as pursued by forest sportsmen, which introduces itself properly in this place between the chapters of shooting and coursing, as guns and greyhounds are both used for killing of venison.

The hart is called the first year a hind, or calf,

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the second a brocket, the third a spayd, or spayde, the fourth a staggard, the fifth a stag, and the sixth a hart; and when he is past his sixth year he is called a hart of ten, and afterwards, according to the increase of his head, is named chrecched, palmed, or crowned. A hind has these three degrees; the first year she is called a calf, the second a broket's sister, and the third year a hind.

The buck is called the first year a fawn, the second a pricket, the third a sorel, the fourth a sore, the fifth a buck of the first head, and the sixth year a great buck. The doe the first year is called a fawn, the second a pricket's sister, and the third year a doe. The roe is called the first year a kid, the second a gurle, the third a henuse, the fourth a roe-buck of the first head, and the fifth year a fair roe-buck. The next thing to be considered is the proper appellation of the excrement of the several sorts of deer, called the fewmishings, which is very necessary, since their dung is the principle guide whereby good foresters and woodmen know and observe the place of their haunt and chiefest resort.

The footing of a hart is called slot, of a buck, and all fallow deer, a vew; that of a deer is called foiling, if on the grass, where the impression of the foot is hardly visible.

The tail of a hart hath no other appellation; but that of a buck, roe, or any other deer, is called the single. The fat of all sorts of deer is called

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suet, but the fat of a roe and hart is called bevy-grease. The forester's expressions are, to harbour and unharbour a hart, or he lieth in his hair; to lodge and touse, or dislodge a buck; to seek and find the roe, and he beddeth: the opening is called to break a deer. Terms to be used in generation are these: a hart, or buck, goeth to rut, the roe goes to tourn. Terms for the voice and sound of deer: the hart belloweth, the buck groaneth, the roe belleth. Where there are more deer than one, the skilful forester terms them thus: a herd of harts, hinds, bucks, and does; a bevy of roes. And note, that twenty is the least number which maketh a herd of any deer, except the roe, which is six.

The deer make their abode all day in the valleys, and on high mountains and hills, where they may see round about them afar off for prevention of danger, being very timorous; and at night-time, when all things are quiet and still, they resort to the corn-fields for food and relief.

Lastly, Let me speak somewhat of the attire of deer, red or fallow: the round roll next the head is called the burr; the main horn, the beam; the lowest antler, the brow antler; next above thereunto, bisantlers; next above that, the royal; and the upper part of all, the surroyal top: in the buck it is thus, the burr, beam, brauach, advancers, palm, and spellers. If the croches on the top grow in the form of a man's hand, it is

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then called a palmed head; heads bearing not above three or four, the croches being placed aloft all of one height, are called heads of so many croches; heads having doubling croches are called forked heads, because the croches are planted on the beam like forks.

A hart can naturally swim a great way, insomuch that I have heard of some so sore hunted in forests next the sea, that they have plunged into it, and have been killed by fishermen six miles from land. It is reported of them when they go to rut, and must for that purpose cross some great river, or arm of the sea, they assemble in large herds, the strongest goes in first, and the next in strength follows him, and so one after the other, relieving themselves by staying their heads on the buttocks of each other. When they mew, or cast their heads, it is said they hide them in the earth so cunningly that no one was ever yet heard of that had been found.

The hart goes to feed in a copse, and always takes the wind, endeavouring thereby to scent out some person he fears may annoy him.

The hind commonly carries her calf about nine months, which usually falls in May, although sometimes later; some of them have two at once: they always eat up the skin which the calf laid in. As the calf grows up she teaches it to run, leap, and the way it must keep to defend itself from the hounds, &c. Harts and hinds are very long lived,

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commonly a hundred years and upwards. The time of rutting is about the middle of September, and continues two months; the older they are the hotter, and the better beloved by the hinds, and therefore they go to rut before the young ones; and being very fiery will not suffer any of them to come near the hinds till they have satisfied their venery. But the young ones are even with the old, for when they perceive the old ones are grown weak by excess of rutting, the young will frequently attack them and make them quit the place, that they may be masters of the sport.

They are easily killed in rutting time, as they follow the scent of the hind with such greediness, laying their noses to the ground, that they mind nothing else; they are such lovers of the sport that it is very dangerous for any man to come near them at this season, for then they will make at any living creature of a different kind.

The time of harts mewing, or casting the head: the old hart casteth her head sooner than the young; and the time is from about the middle of February, and all March. If you geld a hart before he hath a head he will never bear any; and if you geld him when he has a velvet head he will never mew, or cast it without fraying or burnishing. Having cast their heads they instantly withdraw into the thickets, hiding themselves in such convenient places where they may have good water and strong feeding, near some ground

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where wheat or peas, &c. are sown; but young harts never betake themselves to the thickets till they have borne their head, which is in the fourth year. After they have mewed, they will begin to button in March and April, and as the sun grows strong, and the season of the year puts forward the crop of the earth, so will their heads increase in all respects; therefore, in the middle of June, their heads will be summed as much as they will bear all the year.

OF THE COAT AND COLOUR OF HARTS.

The coats of harts are of three sorts, brown, red, and fallow. Of brown harts there are some great, long, and hairy, bearing a high head, red of colour, and well beamed, who will stand before hounds very long, being longer of breath and swifter of foot than those of a shorter stature. There are another sort of brown harts which are little, short, and well set, bearing commonly a black mane, and are fatter and better venison than the former, by reason of their better feeding in young copses.

They are very crafty, especially when in grease, and will be hardly found, because they know they are most inquired after; besides they are very sensible they cannot stand long before the hounds.

The fallow harts bear their heads high and a

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whitish colour, their beams small, their antlers long, slender, and ill grown; having neither heart, courage, nor force: but those of a lively red fallow, having a black or brown list down the ridge of the back, are strong, bearing fair and high heads well furnished and beamed.

How to know an old hart by the slot, entries, abatures, and foils, fewmets, gait, walks, and fraying-stocks.

I shall proceed in order, and first of the slot. You must carefully look on the treadings of the hart's foot; if you find the treadings of two, the one long and the other round, and both of one bigness, yet shall the long slot declare the hart to be much larger than the round; moreover the old hart's hind foot doth never over-reach the fore foot, the young ones do; but above all take this observation, when you are in the wood, and have found the slot of a hart, mark what manner of footing it is, whether worn or sharp; and accordingly observe the country, and thereby judge how either may be occasioned; as harts bred in mountainous and stony countries have their toes and sides of their feet worn, by reason of their continual climbing and resting themselves thereon, and not on the heel; whereas in the other places they stay themselves more on the heel than toes; for

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in soft, or sandy ground, they slip upon heel by reason of the weight, and by frequent staying themselves thereon it makes the heel grow broader and greater; and thus you may know the age of a hart by his slot, or treading. The next thing to be considered is the fewmishing, and this is to be judged of in April or May. If the fewmets be great, large, and thick, they signify the hart to be ten; in the middle of June and July they make their fewmets, or fewmishing, in in great crotusses, very soft, and from that time to the end of August they make them large, long, and knotty, anointed and gilded, falling them but few and scattered. In September and October there is no longer judging by reason of the rut.

Thirdly, If you would know the height and thickness of the hart, observe his entries into the thickets, and what boughs he hath overstridden, and mark from thence the height of his belly from the ground; his greatness is known by the sides of the brakes or twigs where his body has passed, and there, by some broken stick, take his dimensions.

Fourthly, Take notice of his gait, by which you may know whether the hart be great, and stand long before the hounds, or not; for all harts which have a long step, will stand up very long, being swift, light, and well breathed; but if he leave a great slot he will never stand long when he is chased.

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Lastly, The older the hart is, the sooner he goeth to fray, and the greater the tree is he seeketh to fray upon, and such as he cannot bend with his head, and mark the height where the end of his crotches, or palm, hath reached, and thereby know the height of the hart's head; and if you perceive at the highest of his fraying there are left four marks altogether of one height, you may then conclude him to be a hart which beareth a crowned top, croched at the least. In like manner, if you see three antlers which touched three branches of equal height, and two others that have left their marks somewhat lower, you may then judge he beareth a palmed head.

How to seek a hart in his haunts, or feeding places, according to the season of the year.

All harts change their manner of feeding every month, and therefore I shall treat orderly of every one through the year, beginning with the month which is the conclusion of their rutting time, viz. November; in that month they feed on heaths and broomy places.

In December they herd together, and withdraw themselves into the strength of the forests to shelter from the cold winds, snows, and frosts; and feed on elm-trees, elder-trees, brambles, and whatsoever green thing they can find; and if it snows they will skin the trees like goats.

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In January they leave herding, but will keep five or six in company, and in the corners and hollow places of the forest will feed on the winter pasture, sometimes making their incursions into neighbouring corn-fields, if they can perceive the blades of wheat, rye, or such like, appear above ground.

In February and March they frequent corn-fields and meadows, and in these months mew and cast their heads, looking out, after that, for places more obscure, where they may abscond, being ashamed and afraid to be seen, having lost both their beauty and defence.

In April and May they rest in their thickets and most retired parts of the forest, or amongst other bushy and shady places during that season, and stir very little till rutting-time, unless they are disturbed. Some harts are so cunning that they will have two lairs to harbour in, a good distance apart, and will frequently change (their greatest security) from the one to the other, taking still the benefit of the wind. In these months they go not to the soil by reason of the moisture of the spring, and the dew that continually over-spreadeth the grass.

In June, July, and August, they are in their pride of grease, and then resort to spring copses and corn-fields, but seldom go where barley grows.

In September and October they leave their

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thickets and go to rut, during which season they have no certain place either for food or harbour.

In what manner the huntsman should draw the springs to find the hart.

Let him not come too early into the springs, or haunts, where he thinks the hart feeds, and is at his relief, as they usually go to their lairs in the springs, and if they are old crafty deer they will return to the border of the copse, and there listen whether they can hear any approaching danger; and if they chance to scent the huntsmen, or the hounds, they will instantly dislodge.

Then is the huntsman's proper time to beat the outsides of the springs, or thickets; if he finds the track of a hart, or deer, let him observe whether it is new, which he may know thus: the dew will be beaten off, the foil fresh, or the ground broken, or printed with other tokens, so he may judge his game lately went that way.

Having found the slot, or treading, and the hound sticking well upon it, let him hold him short, as he will better draw being so held than if he were let the length of the line, and thus let him draw till he is come to the covert, if possible, taking notice by the way of the slot, foils, entries, and the like, till he hath harboured him: that done, let him plash, or stick down small twigs, some above and some below, as he shall

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think fit; and then, whilst the hound is hot, let him beat the outsides and make his ring-walks twice or thrice about the wood; one while by the great and open ways, that he may help himself by the eye; another while through the thick and covert, lest his hound should over-shoot it, having still better scent in the covert than highways. If he doubts whether the hart is gone out of the ring-walks, or fears he hath drawn amiss, then let him go to the marks which he plashed, and draw counter till he may take up the fewmet. Let him mark the place where he has fed, and the subtleties and crafts he has made; as thereby he shall know what the hart will do before the hounds; for if in the morning he hath made any doubling towards the water, or else in his way, then when he begins to be spent, all the faults, doublings, and subtleties that he will use, shall be in the same place, and in the same manner, as made in the morning; which observation is of great advantage to the huntsmen, and in this manner should they harbour their deer.

OF THE BUCK.

The buck is fawned about the latter end of May, and his nature and properties differ little from the harts, only the hart goes sooner to rut, and is sooner in grease. There is not so much art and skill required in lodging a buck as in harbouring

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a hart; neither is there so much drawing after him necessary, you are only to judge by the view, and mark what grove or covert he enters, for he will not rove and wander up and down so often as a hart, nor so frequently change his lair. He maketh his fewmishings in different manners and forms, as the hart does, according to the diversity of his food, but are most commonly round.

The hart and buck differ in their methods in endeavouring to elude the pursuit of the hunters; for when the buck is hunted, he betakes himself to such strong holds and coverts as he is most acquainted with, not flying far before the hounds, nor crossing, doubling, or using such subtleties as the hart is accustomed to do. The buck will be at a brook, or river, like the hart, but they must not be so deep; nor can stay so long at soil as the hart will; he leaps lighter at rut than the hart, and groans as a hart bellows, but with a low voice rattling in the throat; and here it is to be noted that they love not one another, nor will they come near each others' lair.

He is of a sweeter scent to the hounds than the hart; but according to the judgment of most, the roe is the sweetest chase of all. The buck's venison is incomparable food, and is dressed like hart venison, only the last may be preserved longer than the former: he herds more than the hart, and lies in the driest places; but if he be at large, and unconfined within the limitary precincts of a

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park, he will herd but little from May to August, because the flies trouble him. He takes great delight in hilly places, but the dales please him most to feed in.

OF THE ROE.

It is very easy to shoot or hunt, and goes to rut, or tower, most generally in October, the extent of which consists of fifteen days, and he never parts with the doe till fawning-time. The doe finding herself near her time secretly departs from the buck, and fawns as far from him as she can, for could he find the fawn he would kill it; but when the fawn grows big, can run and feed, she then lovingly again returns to the buck. So soon as the roe-buck comes from rut he casts his horns; and there are few after two years old which do not mew at All-hallows' tide, but their heads grow quickly again.

The venison of a roe is never out of season or very fat, and therefore they may be hunted or shot at any time; yet surely some favour ought to be shown the doe whilst she is big with fawn, and afterwards till her fawn is able to shift for itself. They make an admirable chase, stand long and fly far endways; they see not very well.

When they are hunted they turn much, and often, and come back upon the dogs directly; when they can no longer hold out they then take

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soil as the hart does, and will hang by a bough in such a manner that nothing will appear of them above water but their snout, and thus will suffer the dogs to come nearly upon them before they will stir. The male is not called, by the skilful in the art of hunting, a great roe-buck, but a fair roe-buck: the herd is called bevy; and if there be not bevy grease on his tail when he is broken up, he is not fit for eating.

The hound should be rewarded with the bowels, the blood, and feet slit asunder, and boiled altogether.

OF COURSING WITH GREYHOUNDS.

I need not declare the excellencies which are contained in this noble exercise, since it is so well known to all gentlemen who take delight in that pleasant and healthy pastime; I shall therefore only treat upon the breed of greyhounds, their shape, diet, and the laws belonging to coursing the same, according as they were commanded, allowed, and subscribed by the Duke of Norfolk, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

First, you must have respect to the country, which should be champaign, plain, or high downs. The best valleys are those of Belvoir, White-horse, Evesham, or any other where there are no coverts so that a hare may stand forth and endure a course of two or three miles. High downs, or heaths,

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are met with about Marlborough, Salisbury, Cirencester, Lincoln, and Great Driffield in Yorkshire; though these places are very commodious for the breeding and training up of greyhounds, yet, in my opinion, the middle, or most part arable grounds, are the best; and still those gentlemen who dwell on downs or plain grounds, to keep up the reputation of their own dogs, affirm that they are more nimble and cunning in turning than the vale dogs are.

It is a received opinion that the greyhound bitch will beat the dog, by reason she excels him in nimbleness; but if you consider that the dog is longer, and stronger, you must look upon such opinion as no more than a vulgar error. As to the breeding of your greyhound, the best dog upon an indifferent bitch will not produce so good a whelp as an indifferent dog upon the best bitch; observe this rule in general as to breeding, let your dogs and bitches, as near as you can, be of an equal age, not exceeding four years old; however to breed with a young dog and an old bitch may be the means of producing excellent whelps, the goodness whereof you will know by their shape, in this manner; to be raw-boned, lean, loose made, sickled or crook hocked, and generally connected in every member, are the proper marks of excellent shape and goodness; but if after three or four months they appear round and close thrust, fat, strait, and not full summed,

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and knit in every member, they never prove good, swift, or comely. A well shaped greyhound, after a year and a half old, will have his head lean and long, with a sharp nose, rush grown from the eye downwards; a full clear eye, with long eyelids; a sharp ear, short and close falling; a long neck a little bending, with a loose hanging weasand, a broad breast, straight fore legs, hollow side, straight ribs, a square flat back, short and strong fillets, a broad space between the hips, a strong stern, or tail, a round foot and good large clefts.

The dieting of greyhounds consists in four things, food, exercise, airing, and kennelling. Food of a greyhound is two-fold; general, that is, the maintaining of a dog in good bodily condition, and particularly when dieted for a wager, or it may for some distemper he is afflicted with.

A greyhound's general food ought to be chippings, crusts of bread, soft bones and gristle; your chippings ought to be scalded in beef, mutton, veal, or venison broth, and when it is indifferently cool then make your bread float with good milk, and give it your greyhounds morning and evening, and this will keep them in a good state of body.

But if your dog be poor, sickly, and weak, then take sheep's heads, wool and all, clean washed, and having broken them to pieces put them into a pot, and when it boils skim the pot, and

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put therein a good store of oat-meal, and such herbs as pottage is usually made of, boil these till the flesh is very tender; then with the meal and broth feed your dogs morning and evening, and it will recover them. If you design your greyhound for a wager, give him this diet bread: take half a peck of the finest and driest oatmeal, and a peck of good wheat, having them ground together, bolt the meal, and scattering an indifferent quantity of liquorice and anniseeds well beaten together; knead it up with the whites of eggs, new ale, and barm, mixed together, and bake it in small loaves, indifferently hard; then soak it in beef, or any of the aforesaid broths, and half an hour after sun-rising, and half an hour before its setting, having first walked and aired your greyhound, give it him to eat. This will not only increase his strength, but enlarge his wind.

Having thus spoken of a greyhound's feeding, either for keeping him in health, or restoring it when lost, I shall, in the next place, proceed to his exercise.

You should take two or three brace of greyhounds, or as many as you mean to train, and lead them in slips into the field where your exercise your horses and dogs, and in such places as are clear from flints and stones, that they may not cut their feet; also be well mounted on a horse that has good speed, having a piece of turf

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that is about two miles straight forwards; let the dog leader hold the dogs in the slips, then set off in a canter for a quarter of a mile and begin to halloo, halloo, halloo, at that instant the dog leader must slip all the dogs at once, and you hallooing, the dogs will come after you with all their might, thinking there is a hare before you; then go off at full speed, in a straight line, for two miles, and on the dogs coming up to you make a circle round, hallooing; come the same way back as you went, till you come to the dog leader again. When the dogs tumble and roll themselves on the ground, take each dog and slip his tail two or three times through your hand, then walk them about for a quarter of an hour, and when you get them home, wash their feet with butter and beer, then kennel them; half an hour after feed them. With this exercise, and coursing them twice or thrice a week with hares, they will be as fit, with respect to feeding and training, as any dogs in the kingdom.

As to the first, he ought to be coursed two or three times a week, in such manner that you usually reward him with blood, which will animate and encourage him to prosecute his game; but be not unmindful to give the hare all just and lawful advantage, so that she may stand long before the greyhound, whereby he may shew his strength and skill before he reaps the benefit of his labour. If he kills, suffer him not to break

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the hare, but take her from him, and having cleansed his chaps from the wool of the hare, then give him the liver, lights, and heart, and so take him up in your leash, lead him home and wash his feet with some butter and beer as before-mentioned, and then put him into the kennel, and feed him half an hour afterwards. Upon your greyhound's coursing days, give him in the morning before you air him, a toast and butter, or oil, and nothing else, then kennel him till he goes to his course. The reason for kennelling your greyhounds is, that it breeds in the dogs lust, spirit, and nimbleness, besides it prevents several dangerous casualties and keeps the pores from spending till time of necessity; and therefore do not permit your dog to stir out of the kennel but in the hours of feeding, walking, coursing, or other necessary business.

THE LAWS OF THE LEASH, OR COURSING.

Though the laws of coursing may alter according to some men's fancies, yet those subscribed by the chief of the gentry were ever held authentic; take them thus in order, according to my collection, out of Mr. Markham, the first greyhound courser in England.

1. It was ordered that he who was chosen fewterer, or letter-loose of the greyhounds, should

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receive those matched to run together into his leash as soon as he comes into the field, and follow the next to the hare-finder till he comes unto the form; and no horseman, or footman, on pain of disgrace, to go before them, or on any side, but directly behind, the space of forty yards, or thereabouts.

2. That not above one brace of greyhounds do course a hare at one instant.

3. That the hare-finder should give the hare three soho's before he puts her from her lair, to make the greyhounds gaze and attend her rising.

4. That the fewterer shall give twelve score yards law ere he loose the greyhounds, except it be in danger of losing sight.

5. That dog which giveth the first turn, if after the turn be given there be neither coat, slip, nor wrench, extraordinary, I say, he which gives the first turn shall be held to win the wager.

6. If one dog gives the turn, and the other bears the hare, that which bore the hare shall win.

7. If one gives both the first and last turn, and no other advantage be between them, the odd turn shall win the wager.

8. That a coat shall be more than two turns, and a go-by, or the bearing of the hare, equal with two turns.

9. If neither dog turn the hare, then he which

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leadeth last at the cover; shall be held to win the wager.

10. If one dog turn the hare, serve himself, and turn her again, these two turns shall be as much as a coat.

11. If all the course be equal, then he which bears the hare shall win only: and if she be not borne, the course must be adjudged dead.

12. If he which comes in first to the death of the hare, takes her up and saves her from breaking, cherisheth the dogs, and cleanseth their mouths from the wool, or other filth of the hare for such courtesy done he shall in right challenge the hare: but not doing it, he shall have no right, privilege, or title, therein.

13. If any dog shall take a fall in the course, and yet perform his part, he challenge the advantage of a turn more than he giveth.

14. If one dog turn the hare, serve himself, and give divers coats, yet in the end stand still in the field, the other dog without turn giving, running home to the covert, that dog which stood still in the field shall be adjudged to lose the wager.

15. If any man shall ride over a dog, and overthrow him in his course, though the dog were the worst dog in opinion, yet the party, for the offence, shall either receive the disgrace of the field, or pay the wager; for between parties it shall be adjudged no course.

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16. Lastly, Those who are chosen judges of the leash, shall give their judgment presently, before they depart from the field, or else he, in whose default it lieth, shall pay the wager by a general voice and sentence.

Note, That it lieth in the power of him that hath the office of the leash conferred on him, to make laws according to the custom of countries, and the rule of reason.

DOGS' DISEASES

Remedied and their hurts healed, according to the best prescriptions of ancient and modern sportsmen, and gamekeepers.

OF MADNESS IN DOGS,

The symptoms of the maladies, and their cure.

THERE are properly seven sorts of madness which afflict a dog, whereof two of them are incurable, and therefore I shall say but little thereon, only so much as may give you warning to shift them from your other dogs, because their disease is infectious, and that you may be aware of

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them yourself, lest they injure you, as their biting is dangerous.

The first, incurable, is called the hot burning madness, and is known by these symptoms: first when they run they raise their tails upright, and run upon any thing that stands before them, having no respect where, nor which way, they run; also their mouths will be very black, without any foam in or about them. They will not continue this above three or four days, after which time they die, their pain being so intolerable; and all the dogs they have bit, and drawn blood from, will be mad in like manner.

The second is called the running madness, and is less dangerous, however incurable. The dogs that are troubled with this madness run not at men, but dogs, and no other beasts. The symptoms are, they will smell on other dogs, and having smelt them will shake and bite them, yet shaking their tails and seeming to offer no harm.

The other five being rather sickness, which are curable, are these.

First, The dumb madness, is known by the dog not feeding, but holds his mouth wide open continually putting his feet to his mouth frequently, as if he had a bone in his throat.

The cure is this: take four ounces of the juice of spathala putridæ, and put it into a pot: then take the like quantity of the juice of black hellibore, and as much of the juice of rue; having

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strained them all through a fine cloth, put them into a glass; then take two drams of scammony, unprepared, and having mingled it with the former juices, put it into a horn, or funnel, and convey it down his throat, keeping his head up straight lest he cast it up again; then bleed him in the mouth, cutting three or four veins in his gums, that he may bleed the better, and in a short time you will find amendment: or you may only take eight drams of the juice of an herb called hartshorn, and dog's tooth; and you will find it a most excellent receipt against any kind of madness whatsoever.

Of the falling madness.

The second is so called, and lieth in their heads, which makes them reel as they go, and then fall. For the cure, take four ounces of the juice of piony, with the like quantity of the juice of briony, the like of the juice of cruciata, and four drams of stavesacre pulverized; mingle these together and give your dog as aforesaid; then let him blood in the ears, or the two veins which come down the shoulders, and if he is not cured at first, give it him a second or third time.

Of the lank madness.

So is the third kind of madness called, by rea-

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son of the leanness of their bodies, occasioned by scummering. The cure is, first to purge your dog with this potion; take an ounce of cassia fistularis, well cleansed, two drams and a half of staves-acre pulverized, and the like quantity of scammony, prepared in white-wine vinegar, and four ounces of olive-oil, temper these, and warm them over the fire, and give it your dog in the morning. Put him into the following bath, fasting; put into six pails full of water, ten handfuls of mugwort, of rosemary, of red sage, of the roots, or leaves, of marshmallows, of the roots, or leaves, of wallwort, of the roots, or stalks, of fennel, of the leaves, or stalks, of elecampane, balm, rue, sorrel, bugloss, and melilot, let these boil together in two thirds of water and the other wine, until one third be consumed; the bath being no hotter than your dog can endure it, bathe him therein for an hour, then take him out and put him in some warm place for fear of catching cold; do this four or five times in the same bath, and it will cure him.

Of the sleeping madness.

The fourth is called the sleeping madness, and is caused by some little worms breeding in the mouth of the stomach from corrupt humours, the vapours and fumes whereof ascending into the head, makes the dog sleep continually, and fre-

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quently he dies sleeping. For the cure you must take five ounces of the juice of wormwood, with two ounces of the powder of hartshorn burned, and two drams of agarick, mingled together, and if they be too thick, thin them with white wine, and give it your dog to drink.

Of rheumatic madness.

This madness is so called, because when a dog hath got it, his head swells, his eyes are as yellow as saffron, and he commonly slavereth at the mouth. For the cure, take six ounces of the juice of fennel roots, and the like quantity of the juice of ivy, four ounces of the powder of the roots of polypody, boil them in white wine and give it your dog to drink, as hot as he can bear it.

When a dog hath any of these kinds of madness, he will have no desire to eat, frequently fasting eight or nine days, and so starve to death; indeed if they are troubled with any distemper, they will refuse their meat, even the daintiest bit you can give them, until they have eaten grass and cleared their stomachs of what offended it, and they then will eat.

A remedy against the mange.

This distemper befals a dog frequently for want of fresh water to drink when he requires it; and sometimes by foul kennelling; and sometimes by

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foundering and melting his grease. To cure it, take two handfuls of wild cresses, the like of elecampane, and as much of the roots and leaves of rhubarb and sorrel, and two pounds of the roots of frodels, make them all boil well in lie and vinegar; having strained the decoction, put therein two pounds of grey soap, and when it is melted therein, then rub your dogs with it four or five days together, and it will cure them.

A most excellent receipt to kill fleas, lice, ticks, or any other vermine in dogs; also how to keep them clean.

Take two handfuls of the leaves of white cresses, as much of wild sorrel, and as much of mint, with two ounces of stavesacre, and boil them in a lie made of vine leaves; when it is boiled well, strain it, and in the decoction put two ounces of soap, and one ounce of saffron, with a handful of salt; stir these together and wash your dogs therewith.

For a bruise in a dog.

Make a plaister of the roots of comfrey, pitch, tar, and oil of turpentine, in equal quantities, and mingle them together; then spread it on a cloth as large as the bruised places, and lay it thereon as hot as the dog can endure it, and this will cure him.

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A plaister to heal a foundered dog.

Take twelve yolks of eggs, and beat them with four ounces of the juice of mousear, or with vinegar only; being well beaten, put therein soot pulverized; mingle all these together and anoint the soles of your dog's feet therewith, and bind a linen cloth about them; after this let him rest forty-eight hours in his kennel.

How to keep a bitch from growing proud.

Before a bitch hath had whelps, give her every morning, nine days together, nine grains of pepper wrapt up in her meat, whether it be in cheese, bread, &c.

A receipt for a dog that cannot void his urine.

Take a handful of marshmallows, the like quantity of archangel, the roots of fennel, the roots of brambles, each a like quantity, and let them boil together in white wine till a third part be consumed, and convey it down your dog's throat; but if this will not do, take a piece of candle three or four inches long, and thrust it into his sheath as far as you can, and it will make him skummer.

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A cure for tetters, cankers, and ringworms in dogs.

Take a dram of the powder of mecury sublimate, and beat it well in a stone mortar, with the juice and inward substance of citron, without the bark, and put it into a little water and vinegar; then take an ounce of alum, and as much soap, incorporate these together and let them boil till the third part be consumed, and lay this decoction on the part affected.

For any wound in a dog.

If your dog be wounded, which frequently happens when some beasts of venery do bay, take the juice of red coleworts, and nothing else, and pour it into the wounds, and it will effect the cure.

OF THE ELECTION OF DOGS AND BITCHES FOR GOOD WHELPS.

Your bitch must be of a good kind, strong, and well proportioned in all parts, having her ribs and flanks great and large; let the dog that lines her be of a good fair breed, and young, if you intend to have light and hot dogs; for if the dog be old, the whelps will participate of his dull and heavy nature. If your bitch grows not naturally proud so soon as you would wish, you may make her so by taking two heads of garlic, half a castor's

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stone, the juice of cresses, and about twelve Spanish flies, or cantharides, boil them together in a pipkin which holds a pint, with some mutton, and make broth thereof, and give it to the bitch twice or thrice. The same being given to the dog will make him desirous of copulation. When your bitch is lined, and with puppies, you must not let her hunt, as it may make her cast the whelps; but let her be unconfined and at large; he will then be impatient for food; you should give her some warm broth once a day.

If you would spay your bitch, it must be done before she has had a litter of whelps; and in spaying her, take not away all the roots, or strings, of the veins; if you do, you will much prejudice her reins and hinder her swiftness ever after; but by leaving some behind it will make her much the stronger, and more hardy. Whatever you do, spay her not when she is proud, as that will endanger her life; you may do it fifteen days after; but the best time is, when the whelps are shaped within her.

HOW TO TAKE BADGERS, FOXES, AND OTHER FOUR-FOOTED VERMINE, BY TRAIN.

The best train for the badger, is hog's flesh; as by taking a bit of pork and train over a badger's burrow, if he be within you will soon see him ap-

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pear without, and having a spring-snare placed at the burrow's mouth, the moment the badger gets his leg, or legs, in the snare he will spring up three or four feet from the ground, and be suspended; you may then bag him as you please. When the badger forsakes his hole, the fox frequently takes possession of it, wherein he will defend himself stoutly against a terrier, but not so vigorously as a badger, neither is the biting so dangerous. If it is a bitch fox, and should be taken in clicketting time, cut out the gut that holds her sperm together with her stones, or those kidneys which gelders take from bitches they have spayed; cut those into pieces, and mingle a little of her grease, and as much as you can save of the urine, with a little gummastic, naturally hot, and put the mixture in a glazed earthen bottle, put it in the sun, or near a slow fire, till it is dissolved, then stop it up close and put it a foot or more under ground till you want so use it: by keeping it this way, it will serve for years, and the least matter of it will do.

The train must be ordered thus; take the skin of bacon and lay it on a gridiron; when it is hot, and thoroughly broiled, anoint it with the aforesaid ingredients contained in your bottle; by this means, if there be a fox near, or within a mile or so, where this train was drawn, and the wind fair, the fox will follow it; but he that draweth the train, must rub the soles of his shoes with new cow-dung,

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and must have the feet of two stockings half full of the same dung to slip on his shoes, lest the fox scent his feeting; and thus you may train a fox to his standing, and take him as you think fit with spring-snare, box, trap, &c.

All four-footed vermine may be taken in the same way.

FINIS.

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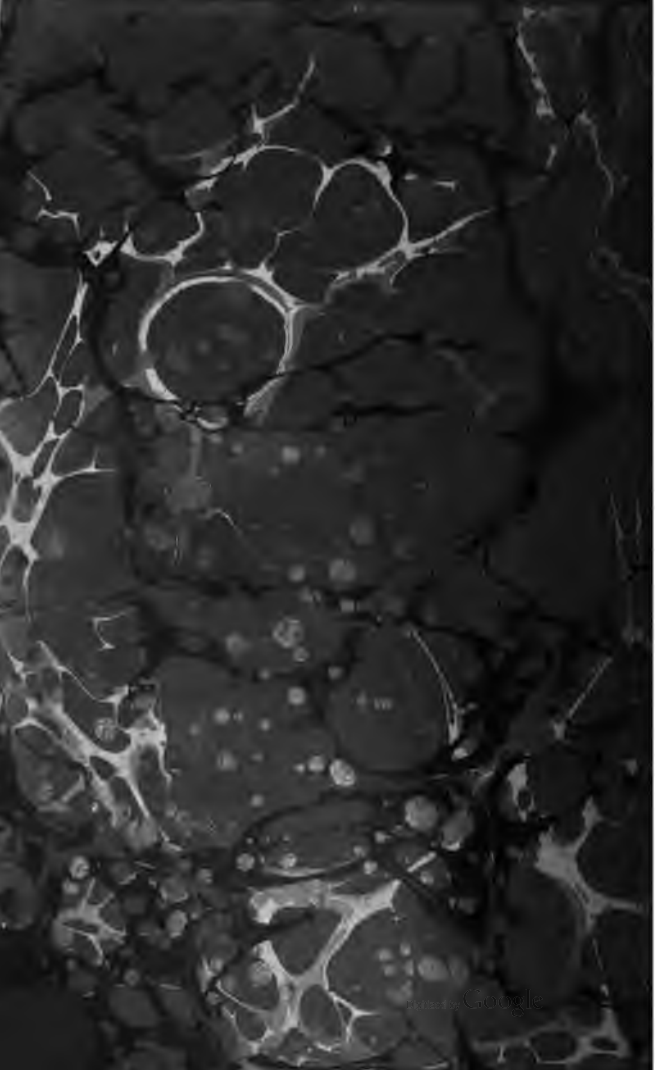
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